

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

Only 50p.

24-30 April 1986

Vol 5 No 17

## Amstrad's PC looks set for May launch



### COLOUR FEATURE

Masterpieces from the Art  
Gallery on Compunet - p12

### WORD WIZARDS

Don't miss the third  
part of our  
Wordsearch challenge  
see p26 for details

● Amstrad could launch its PC compatible machine at the Amstrad Computer Show on 31 May

● Both PC DOS and CP/M compatibility to be included?

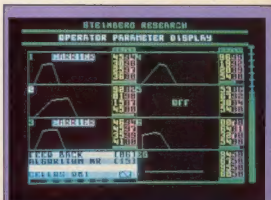
● Author of its operating system named

Full details below and inside

AMSTRAD's PC compatible may now be scheduled for launch on 31 May at the next

Amstrad Computer Show. The machine is likely to be in the £650-£700 range, will have a colour monitor, Digital Research's Gem graphics environment software on board and, it is suggested, both PC compatibility and CP/M file compatibility. It will also be sold in both floppy and hard disc versions (see *Popular Computing Weekly* March 20).

continued on page 4 ►



DX7 Editor screen

### HARDWARE REVIEW

Sounds exciting? Steinberg's  
Midi interface for the C64  
see p10

## Red Moon

Voted  
"BEST ADVENTURE OF THE YEAR"

Commodore Computing International  
Amstrad Computer User  
Computer and Video Games

Voted  
"BEST GRAPHICAL ADVENTURE 1985"

Zzap! 64  
Amix  
Crash

£6.95  
Cassette



## The Price of Magik

NOW  
AVAILABLE

Rise from Sorcerer's Apprentice  
to Supreme Wizard

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Independent Creatures

200 + locations, all illustrated  
(not BBC)

Sophisticated word-recognition and  
fast response.

NEW

£9.95  
Cassette



## SOFTWARE ►

## 9 Write Hand Man

Write Hand Man from Hi-Soft can sit invisibly in your PCW's memory until you call it up – and it becomes the micro's answer to Filofax

## Assembler Workbench

A complete machine code toolkit package, *Assembler Workbench* is the latest offering for the QL from Talent

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# Amstrad restructures Sinclair repairs and returns service

AMSTRAD is starting to pick up where Sinclair's repairs and replacement service left off. Norman Smith, managing director of Sinclair distributor Terry Blood Distribution, told *Popular Computing Weekly* that Sinclair's blue label 30 day replacement service "broke down about two weeks before

Sinclair did".

This meant that TBD had been unable to exchange faulty machines. Amstrad, however, has now restarted the service in conjunction with TBD, and has taken advertising in the national press warning users to return faulty machines to their dealer, not to Sinclair.

Amstrad seems to intend to merge the 30 day replacement service and one year warranty on Sinclair products with its own facilities, but as Sinclair appears to have washed its hands of the whole matter, there may well be a few hiccups before the new service is fully up and running.

## Amstrad's PC looks set for May launch

◀ continued from page 1

Paul Bailey of Digital Research wouldn't confirm or deny that Gem would be included on the machine. "I can't comment on any future plans of Amstrad," he said. "There's a lot of rumour about a 16-bit machine from Amstrad, and it's probably well-founded. But I think the market could be wrong on a number of counts."

Although it's thought the Amstrad PC will conform to the IBM standard by having 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch drives, the bulk of the current wave of CP/M products is on Amstrad 3 inch format discs. So if the machine combines the ability to read CP/M data files with 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch drives, it would also need to be able to cope with an external 3 inch drive.

Amstrad specialist Timatic Systems is widely thought to have written the PC's operating system and Timatic was showing a 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch external drive for Amstrad's CP/M machines at the Amstrad show earlier this year. Nick Young of Timatic favours the 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch drive on the grounds of its greater capacity.

Timatic's 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch drive does however allow Amstrad's CP/M machines to read PC-DOS data files, so the company's experience here means it is well placed to do the job in reverse for the Amstrad PC. Young himself conceded that more details would be forthcoming at the Amstrad show.

Amstrad itself seems to have been in two minds about the machine's launch date, recently having cancelled a large stand booking at the June PC User show. This has prompted speculation that the machine isn't ready, or that Amstrad doesn't want to harm sales of the PCW8512 machines, but one dealer who had been ordering these heavily claimed to have been told there was "something much better" due in the next two months.

This would place it nicely for the Amstrad show, and would conform to Amstrad's policy of not alienating its dealers. The company makes a point of not pre-announcing launches, but immediately prior to the launch will suggest to dealers that they shouldn't invest too heavily in existing stock.

## Mirrorsoft features Biggles at UK CES

MICRO companies exhibited for the first time at Britain's Consumer Electronics trade show, held from April 20-23 at Kensington Olympia.



Biggles

While the number of software firms taking part was fairly small, there were plenty of new offerings on view.

Mirrorsoft had one of the

most prominent stands, and were previewing *Biggles*, the game based on the forthcoming film, and a version of *Fleet Street Editor* for the CPC 6128. Jim Mackonochie of Mirrorsoft also said that its Amstrad PCW *Fleet Street Editor* will not now be released until this autumn.

The company also displayed its new range of US-sourced 16-bit software and announced a forthcoming arts creation package for the Atari, ST Art.

Mikro-Gen previewed a new shoot'em up for the Amstrad CPCs called *Equinox*, while Mastertronic launched its Entertainment USA range, a series of £2.99 titles specifically written for Mastertronic by American programmers.

Both Level 9 and Rainbird took stands, with the former announcing that the latter would be publishing its *Colossal Trilogy*, a bumper version

of the original *Colossal Caves* on the PCW, ST, and QL machines.

Software on smart cards was being heavily promoted as Electric Software's stand, while, on the peripherals side,



Cheetah's sound sampler

Cheetah displayed its Amstrad version of the Spectrum, and a new sound sampler at £44.95 for the Spectrum 48/128. Also on the Spectrum, Cheetah has developed a Midi interface at £49.95, with a 128 to Midi lead at £9.75.

## Mikro-Gen joins the budgeteers

MIKRO-GEN is set to launch a £2.99 range of budget games, following on the lead set by US Gold (see *Popular Computing Weekly*, April 10). The complete range has yet to be finalised, but according to Mikro-Gen's managing director, Mike Meek it will lean heavily on the company's hits of years gone by.

One of the first releases, for example, will be a double tape of *Centipede* and *Galaxians*, the idea being, according to Meek, that "there's a certain place in the market that will just pay £3-4". The range will also include new titles, but won't initially include current products like *Three Weeks in Paradise*. Once these have dropped out of the charts they're liable to reappear as either single or double £2.99 games.

## Apple announces new Mac - but no price cuts

APPLE has announced a new version of the Mac with operating system enhancements and the new 900K drive.

The new model is called the Macintosh 512/800 and fits into the range midway between the existing 512K Mac and the Macintosh Plus which was launched at January's *Which Computer?* Show.

The new disc drive, introduced on the Plus, is a double-sided model, and the operating system has been increased to 128K and put into Rom which makes for faster disc access and graphics handling. UK buyers will get a bonus in the

form of the new keyboard incorporating numeric keypad. US customers will have to settle for the older version.

Price for the new model is £1,895 and it will be introduced on May 1. The existing Mac 512 will be dropped but an upgrade will be launched to allow Mac owners to upgrade in stages through the 512/800 up to the Plus.

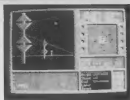
This announcement puts paid to any hopes that Apple would eventually bring down prices to compete with the Atari ST. It is now clear that Apple will maintain pricing and offer extra features instead.

## CRL rings bells with the Commodore

CRL is to launch an Amstrad version of *Blade Runner* and a 64 version of the acclaimed *Tau Ceti*, while its sister label Nu Wave is to launch *Tubular Bells* for the 64.

In *Blade Runner* you play a bounty hunter employed to seek and destroy the replicoids, androids bent on destroying the human race. It will be available from April at £8.95. *Tau Ceti* will be released in May at £9.95.

*Tubular Bells* is a combined



soundtrack and light synthesiser, the soundtrack being a complete version of the LP by Mike Oldfield. The light synthesiser generates its own "mesmerising to watch" patterns, or can be controlled through the keyboard. A snip at £7.95.

Details from CRL, 01-402 9134.

## Amiga graphics packs to be launched in May

PRECISION Software is to import *Animator*, *Images* and *Aegis Draw* - three animation and graphics packages for the Amiga from Aegis Development in California.

*Animator* is an animation package for graphics professionals and hobbyists, and will initially be sold bundled with a low resolution version of the

*Images* paint package for £119.95. A high resolution of *Images* will later be sold separately for £69.95.

*Aegis Draw* is a full CAD package that includes automatic scaling, grids and a parts library. It will cost £169.95, and should be available from May. Details from Precision Software on 01-330 7166.

## Citizen's £50 printer

A BARGAIN printer is being released by the Spectrum Group, imported from Japanese company Citizen.

The Citizen printer will cost just £49.99. A two colour dot matrix printer, it uses standard size paper rolls and is compatible with most Commodore computers: the Vic 20, C16, C64, Plus/4 and C128s.

Details from Spectrum on 0462 37171.

## Linkword goes Dutch

LINKWORD has added Greek, Dutch, Russian and Portuguese to its BBC B first level foreign language courses.

The courses are designed for travel or schoolwork and are intended to teach grammar and a 350-400 word vocabulary in eight to 12 hours.

Second level courses in French, German, Spanish and Italian are also now available. Each course comes on disc and costs £24.95.

Details from Access Software, 100 Baker Street, London W1 (01-935 1470).

## Firebird freebie hits hitch at Hi-tech

POPULAR Computing Weekly's special tape offer, organised in conjunction with Firebird, has unfortunately been affected by the liquidation of Hi-tech Distribution.

Much of Firebird's stock was being held by Hi-tech, and is now in the hands of the liquidator.

Those who recently sent in for Firebird tapes will be receiving the *Arcade Champions Handbook* in compensation.



## HIGH RESOLUTION COLOUR MONITOR

14" SCREEN  
RESOLUTION  
(585 X 895 PIXELS)

£229.95 INC VAT  
SOUND FACILITY NOW  
AVAILABLE  
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Available in Wood or Metal Case



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**A low introductory price for APRIL ONLY  
and whilst the first batch lasts**

FOR AMSTRAD, ATARI, BBC COMM128, AMIGA,  
Q.L., SPECTRUM 128 Etc

R.G.B. input and High Resolution is the only way to see properly the true detail and brilliance of modern computers and software. Spectrum 48 needs the converter, £28.95.

COD or Send your cheque to:

CHROMAGRAPHICA, 135 Cliff Road, Hornsea, North Humberside HU18 1JB  
Telephone 0482 881 065 (days) 04012 4699 (evenings)

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ COMPUTER \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply: Chrome I £229.95 + £9.95 carriage. Converter (for Spectrum 48) £28.95 inc. VAT. Sound £19.95 inc VAT

Colour: \_\_\_\_\_ Wood ☐ Metal ☐ 46991

## ALL SYSTEMS GO TO THE NINETEENTH MICROFAIR

Blaze off to the Spring 88 Microfair at the Horticultural Hall London SW1 on the 10th May 76. See for the first time at the show: Sinclair's new 128K, Spectrum plus hardware add-on software. Explore those just launched new software programs, hardware, magazines and books. Have a wonderful day out, see everything for Sinclair computers under one roof, plus all you ever wanted for your computer.

Full support for 48K Spectrums with a Big QL Section. Users Clubs and experts will be on hand to answer your technical queries plus bring and buy stand for special bargains. Watch out for fantastic show prices with Big Big savings.

For the show that's out of this world come to the Spring Microfair. Send now for the reduced-price advance tickets on the coupon below.

## THE SPRING MICROFAIR 10th May 1986

At the Horticultural Hall, Graycoat Street/Elverson Street,  
London SW1. 10am-6pm

Admission: £1.75 (Adults) £1.25 (Kids under 14 years)

SEND FOR REDUCED PRICE ADVANCE TICKETS TODAY

Send to: Mike Johnson (Organiser), Dept 5 ZX MICROFAIR, 71 Park Lane, London W1P 9HS.  
Please send me: advance tickets (Child under 14 @ £1.00)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and make cheques payable to ZX Microfair.  
Exhibitors ring Mike or Moira on 01-801 9172 for details of stand availability.

## Tight fit

I refer to your issue dated March 27, in which Andrew Nightingale wrote that he was having trouble loading programs with his C2N, which is over 12 month old.

I, too, had similar problems, but I have managed to cure them by carefully bending the metal spring clip where the top of the cassette fits into the C2N. This makes the cassette fit more tightly into the unit and therefore enables the very critical impulses to be picked up correctly. I assume that this clip tends to weaken with use so that the cassette is not so tight fitting against the tape heads.

I hope this solves the problem.

Paul B Nash  
Cheadle Hulme  
Cheshire



My current project is to make an audio tape of computer generated music; while I program extensively myself within this field, many hands make light work and co-operation means success. This tape would be sold as widely as possible. With this proceeds going to the A.R.C. funds.

All types of music are acceptable - classical, jazz, folk, electronic, etc. While I can offer no prizes, your contribution would be duly acknowledged on the cassette by name.

Programs should be sent to the address below; should they be in Commodore 64 mode, a tape or disc will be acceptable (returnable on request). Other computers would require an audio tape. Please specify program aids used where applicable.

Great or small - contributions will be acknowledged.

Dr E Mills  
43 Chancel Close  
Nailsea  
Bristol BS19 2NE

## Unusable QL?

Now that Amstrad has taken Sinclair's range of computers under its corporate wing and is intending dropping the QL, I would like to know (as I'm sure do many thousands of QL and Spectrum owners) if the company intends to carry on manufacturing microdrive cartridges. I know they are non-standard and quirky (although they've never caused me any problems), but if they were to disappear, all QL owners will find themselves with no mass storage media - unless, of course, we all fork out a couple of hundred pounds for a disc drive.

This surely would be an unprecedented situation for any discontinued home micro. The QL would not only be rendered obsolete but unusable, once all the users' existing cartridges were used up.

Rob Baxter  
Whalley Range  
Manchester

## Computer music

As a local organiser for the arthritis and rheumatism council for research, I am appealing through the magazine for assistance from computer users with an interest in music.

The A.R.C. is celebrating its 50th anniversary and depends extensively on public support for funds which are directed towards medical research within this field.

processor. Admittedly, the width of the data bus does make the 68008 slower than the 68000 and the 68000 slower than the 68020 but this is only by a few per cent. Internally all three processors are 32-bit.

The reason added memory makes the QL faster has nothing whatsoever to do with the screen update. The 68008 in the QL runs at 7.5 MHz but the 64K memory chips inside are not capable of running this fast, so the 68008 is slowed down when accessing this internal memory, to allow for these slower chips. Most memory expansion units use new faster chips which are capable of the high speeds necessary, thus now slowing the CPU.

The screen update does slow the memory access up, but does this to the external memory as well, as there is only one data bus. The video ULA grabs the data bus and stops all memory access by the CPU.

K A Unsworth  
Grays  
Essex

## Big-ridden

As a rueful owner of an Atari 520ST, I have to conclude that the glowing reviews of the machine must be written by programmers; certainly they cannot have tried to write any serious applications in Basic!

The interpreter has a whole host of novel effects available. The Gotoxy command positions the cursor, but not where it should, and whilst the error can be overcome by flipping the window, large areas of display then disappear. Assignments, such as  $A = B$  following an *If...Then...Else* statement, often corrupt the interpreter, which then regards the variable name as a reserved word, rejecting later occurrences of the name. *For...Next* loops are randomly rejected unless wholly contained within a single line, and *List*, *Save*, *Edit*, etc, often cause the machine to crash.

There are other bugs also, but perhaps the worst affect file handling. These routines are so shot through with faults that they are unusable. *Eof*, *Loc* and

## THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE

### Puzzle No 205

When Luigi won a prize of one million lire on the national lottery, he opened a bank account for the money. The account paid an annual interest of eight per cent, paid daily. This meant that every day 8/36500ths of the amount in the account were added to the sum, the bank rounding the sum to the nearest lire.

Exactly seven days after investing the money, Luigi made a cash withdrawal, and thereafter at weekly visits Luigi noticed that the amount remaining in the account was just ten lire more than half of the amount originally invested.

Can you say how much money he withdrew on each of his weekly visits?

### Solution to Puzzle 200

The three possible values for 'P C W' are 106, 173, and 340, giving cubes of (respectively) 1191016, 5177717, and 39304000.

Commencing with initial values in the range 102 to 987, the values are converted to a string. Lines 90 to 150 check each character of this string in turn to determine if it matches one of the three originating digits. Each

time that this happens, the tally variable (T) is incremented by one.

```
10 FOR N=102 TO 997
20 NEW=STR$(N)
30 IF N=106 THEN T=T+1
40 IF N=173 THEN T=T+1
50 IF N=340 THEN T=T+1
60 IF T=3 THEN PRINT N:GOTO 100
70 NEXT N
80 PRINT T
90 T=0
100 FOR T=1 TO LEN(NEW)
110 IF NEW(T) = "P" THEN T=T+1
120 IF T=3 THEN T=T+1
130 IF T=3 THEN T=T+1
140 IF T=3 THEN T=T+1
150 NEXT T
160 IF T=LEN(NEW) THEN
170 PRINT N:GOTO 100
170 NEXT N
```

In the examples given, matching digits occur in all but one place in the cube, and so the value of the tally would be equal to the number of characters in the cube minus one. This is determined in Line 160 and any such lines are printed out. These prove to match the examples given in the question.

### Winner of Puzzle No 200

The winner is Phil Arney of Esher, Surrey who will be receiving £10.

### Rules

The closing date for Puzzle 205 is May 20.

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# Letters

Lof simply do not work at all. When strings are stored in a sequential file the interpreter often has the notion of moving all the records up one place, filling the vacant record one with a null string.

At least it is refreshing to find that Atari does not pretend that the faults are not there, or blames user error - it does admit that its Basic is bug-ridden and that it has no fixes in sight to make the ST work properly.

Anyone want to buy a second-hand machine that is guaranteed to entertain for weeks, displays lovely bouncing balls, but cannot access disc files?

David Lovegood  
Stokeport

## Simple sums

The Atari 520ST may well have 512K memory, and a Basic which occupies over 130K, but it cannot appear to do simple sums. Run the first program below, then the second. Now run it again. And again. You may sometimes get the right answer, 36, but more of-

ten the machine comes up with six or four. I do hope no-one is running their payroll on it.

10 OPEN "0", 1, "SIMPLE SUM"  
20 PRINT #1, "12": PRINT #2, "3":  
CLOSE

10 OPEN "1", 1, "SIMPLE SUM"  
20 LINE INPUT #1, AS: LINE INPUT #2  
35 CLOSE  
30 A = VAL (AS): B = VAL (BS)  
40 PRINT A\*B

D Hawson  
Beeston  
Nottingham

## Calculated

I have a 48K Spectrum and I am trying to build up a collection of short drawing programs.

However, I am not too hot on calculations using the Cos, Sin, Pi functions, etc. I would be grateful if any of your readers that have some of these would send them to me.

I do not mind if they are in Basic 1.8 or M/C.

Mr K Norton  
8 Devonshire Close  
Staveley, Chesterfield  
S43 3PB

## Wrong answer

Re Peek and Poke, April 10. I would draw your attention to the letter printed under the heading 'Reserved space' from Lawrence Scotford: 'Is it possible to disable to Interface One on a Spectrum without disconnecting - and so load incompatible software?'

Your answer was no, but it is! On power-up and until any extended Basic commands are

issued Interface One uses no computer memory at all. If the Interface One Rom has been called, then it is perfectly possible to do a 'soft' reset of the Spectrum by a simple *Randomise Usr 0* command. Any software not compatible with Interface One will then load normally. On a Spectrum Plus you press the reset button for the same effect.

R J Elliott  
Rugby

## Readers' Chart No 71

- |    |     |  |                    |
|----|-----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | (1) | Elite (Spectrum/C64/Amstrad)             | BBC                |
|    |     |  | Acornsoft/Firebird |
| 2  | (2) | Uridium (C64)                            | Hawson             |
| 3  | (4) | Lord of the Rings (Spectrum/C64/Amstrad) | Metbourne House    |
| 4  | (3) | Commando (Spectrum/C64/C16)              | Elite              |
| 5  | (7) | Movie (Spectrum)                         | Imagine            |
| 6  | (-) | Bomb Jack (Spectrum/Amstrad)             | Elite              |
| 7  | (-) | Spellbound (Spectrum/Amstrad)            | Mastertronic       |
| 8  | (5) | Swords and Sorcery (Spectrum/Amstrad)    | PSS                |
| 9  | (8) | Gunfight (Spectrum/Amstrad)              | Ultimate           |
| 10 | (-) | Way of the Tiger (Spectrum/Amstrad)      | Gremlin            |

Winning Phrase No 71: "Emotive lurid emu", from Chas Hill, of Birkenhead, who wins £25.

Next week's Readers Chart will be the last one.

# B.B.B.B. BOUNDER

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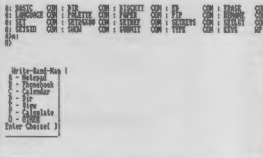
## Write Hand Man

**W**rite Hand Man is a marvellous, if somewhat dubiously titled, utility imported from the US by Hisoft. It has been modelled on a famous program on the IBM PC called *Sidekick*, to see it on CP/M is an eye-opener.

The idea is that the program is loaded into the part of memory that holds CP/M itself, taking between 3 and 5K in the process depending on which option you choose. When running CP/M programs you will never see that this memory is missing (eg, *Newword*) but with others the loss may be more critical. This is particularly true when using CP/M 2.2 where the programs may have had to be squeezed in.

*Write Hand Man* sits there completely invisible until a special key combination is pressed. The program you are running is frozen (without harm) and a pop-up menu appears giving you several options.

The options are to look at, or enter, notes in a notepad file, study your diary for the next two weeks, look up a phone numbers file, get a disc directory, use a calculator or view a



text file on disc (potentially very useful when using a word processor). *Wordstar*-style editing keys are used for entering data.

There is also a communications program supplied that needs to be installed for your particular hardware. Your own purpose written programs can also be called up if they fit within 1.5K.

When finished you are then restored back to your main program exactly where you were before you started.

The drawback is that you need to have the appropriate program files and data files on a disc at hand at all times or the whole thing becomes pointless. This is really not a great

hardship, as unless you have lots of data very little room is lost on a disc. You also have to be committed to keeping things like the diary up to date.

On the whole, it is perfect for those who spend a lot of time at the keyboard and who often have two things to do at once. It also suits those who, like me, write everything down on scraps of paper and then lose them. It makes a perfect complement to CP/M programs such as *Newword*.

**Tony Kendle**

**Program Write Hand Man Micro**  
Any Amstrad CP/M Price  
£25 **Supplier** Hisoft, 180 High Street North, Dunstable, Beds LU6 1AT

## Simple Accounts

**S**ince when has doing the books been easy? Since the 14th February this year—that's when Cornix Software converted *Simple Accounts* for the Amstrad CPC range to the Amstrad PCW range.

Setting up *Simple Accounts* for the first time does take quite a while; after making your 'working disc' (backup), you define a template. Before you enter any data, you must name the 'folio' you wish to use; a folio can refer to a day, a week, a month or year. Folio numbering is automatic, but one restriction is that only 200 entries can be made per folio.

When making an entry you give the date, a classification number, which is the column to which the entry is to be made, a reference (which can be anything you like), the amount of the transaction, the VAT and the payment reference.

When all entries for one folio have been made, they can be looked at and analysed in a variety of ways. A straight-forward list of purchases/sales can be made which may include either all entries or those within or outside the scope of VAT. This list returns the entry number, the date, the payment reference, the reference, the entry total and the VAT for each item that complies with the requirements.

You can search for entries that have the same payment reference, the same sub-reference or fall into the same column. Analysing produces a summary of transactions for each column and gives the total amount with and without VAT. VAT reports can be made which summarise the VAT input and output for any folio, and calculate the amount you owe to Customs & Excise.

The program is totally menu driven, which makes using it easy for just about anyone. Information, such as lists of entries, can be printed to either the screen or the printer and are nicely formatted.

**David Wallin**

**Program Simple Accounts**  
Price £34.95 Micro Amstrad PCW 8256. **Supplier** Cornix Software, 16 Kneeworth Street, Royston, Herts. SG8 5AA.

## Workbench

**I**t would appear that Talent is on to yet another winner with their latest release, *The Assembler Workbench*. Virtually every conceivable facility is combined in a single machine code development package enabling a programmer to assemble about 35K of source code on an unexpanded QL directly from memory; larger programs may be accommodated with microdrive, floppy or memory expansion access.

Compact and elegantly designed, the *Workbench* includes a full screen editor, assembler, monitor and disassembler. Access to the complete operating manual may be made on-screen, utilising the detailed index, while the program is running.

Decidedly user-friendly, the assembler can operate in the conventional two-pass mode or as a one line assembler. The latter facility allows direct

modification of machine code using the standard 68000 processor mnemonics.

Trace facilities allow a user to single-step through an entire program whereupon successive instructions are disassembled and printed. Alternatively, up to 20 trace points may be placed in Rom or Ram areas for use with parts of a program. A command is included in the operating system whereby users may probe QDOS routines during a normal single-step trace.

Dual screens are provided primarily for de-bugging graphics displays or they may be set up for a disassembler/hex dump combination. When disassembly of a sub-routine is completed, the normal display may be restored and the original disassembly resumed.

A facility is included for programming the five function keys for use with SHIFT and the relevant function key number.

The screen editor, which can be used independently of the monitor and assembler, can

operate from Ram, microdrive or disc files for modifying assembler or SuperBasic programs or on any text file.

Only one minor point arose during this evaluation which I felt could be improved on: the monitor line lengths are limited to 132 characters. Whilst more than adequate for the majority of applications, some types of files (eg, text games) could require a larger capacity.

Talent's *Assembler Workbench* represents not only good value for money, but is a well planned language utility. The screen editor alone is worth the price of the package. *Workbench* is probably not suitable for the absolute beginner; those starting with machine code couldn't, however, do better than this.

**Ron Massey**

**Program The Assembler Workbench Micro Sinclair QL Price**  
£24.95 **Supplier** Talent Computer Systems, Curran Buildings, 101 St James Road, Glasgow G4 0NS.

## Midi Interface

Over the last couple of years the Commodore 64 has been recognised as the best all-round value-for-money music computer, with applications ranging from simple noise generation with its built-in Sid sound chip to very complex control of professional synthesisers when fitted with a Midi Interface.

In the past few months the capabilities of the **MI** have been expanded to almost unbelievable levels with the announcement of new music packages from Germany and America. One good example is the *Pro 16* from Steinberg, which, as its name suggests, is a 16-channel Midi composer.

As I've indicated, you'll need a Midi Interface to run the package, and Steinberg make two – one at around £135 and a simpler version (lacking sockets for tape synchronisation and so on) for nearer £35. The *Pro 16* software is around £90, and, incidentally, is available in an Apple version too, with a 24-channel Atari 520ST version forthcoming.


The cost of Midi synthesisers capable of taking advantage of the Steinberg software is plummeting, with the amazingly powerful Casio CZ-101 reportedly in the shops for £249 cash. The 101 is unusual in being able to play four notes with four different sounds simultaneously, as well as being able to play four or eight-note chords with a single sound.

But the *Pro 16* software can be used with any Midi Instrument (this includes drum machines, other sequencers, Midi home keyboards, effects units and so on).

The *Pro 16* package will allow you to record and arrange musical pieces entered from the synthesiser keyboard, either in Step Time (every note you enter plays back with a set length regardless of how slowly you have to do it) or Real Time (playback is exactly as you entered the

notes). All major functions are shown on just one screen.

The larger Midi interface is a flat grey plastic box with Din connectors on the rear for Midi In and Out and jack sockets on the front for synchronisation to a non-Midi drum machine, to tape, and for connection to a programmable footswitch. Red and Green Led's indicate when Midi information is coming into or leaving the interface, so if your initial connections aren't right you'll have a good idea of where to start.

The software allows 16 polyphonic tracks of music to be recorded – the Real Time option includes a metronome  – and the maximum length of one section is 64 bars of any time signature. Normally

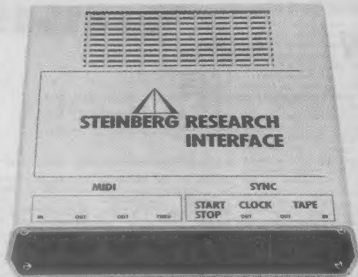
you'd assign each channel to transmit on the Midi channel of the same number, so that Channel 1 would control a synth set to Midi channel 1, Channel 16 would control a synth (or expander or drum machine or digital delay) set to Channel 16, and so on.

A song 256 patterns long can be defined and this can, of course, be stored to disc. Unusually, many parameters such as tempo and Midi channel can be changed while the music is playing. A series of moving vertical bars indicate that there's some activity on each channel, and other read-outs show bar and beat number, memory remaining and so on. Total capacity is 6000 notes and most of the functions are controlled simply from the Cursor, Function and Shift keys.

The software will record and play back almost any information which can be transmitted by Midi, so that includes notes, patch (sound) changes, pitch bend, modulation (vibrato), keyboard velocity (affects the loudness of the note on many synths) and so on.

The computer can hold 64 patterns at a time and you can prepare patterns in three ways – Real Time, Step Time (entering single notes or chords from the synthesiser and spaces with the space bar) or quantised real time. This means you can auto-correct your playing so that a misplaced note will be moved to the nearest quarter, eighth, 16th or even 96th beat. Very handy for those whose enthusiasm for the keyboard exceeds their skill on it.

The whole package is laid out in imitation of an unusually flexible 16-track tape recorder; each channel number active at any given time is blocked in green, and inactive channels are white. Underneath each channel is its Midi transmission channel number which can be altered after a piece is recorded – a facility you won't





Store Writer

find on stand-alone Midi sequencers.

A simple second page allows you to time-shift tracks to compensate for any sync problems, and you can use this page to create long delays or short chorus-like effects using two synths playing the same sound. And there are some very friendly functions on the main page too – if you simply press the “A” key on the computer, every single connected synth sounds an “A” for tuning up!

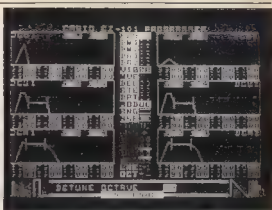
The same Steinberg interface will, as we mentioned, run a Midi Casio CZ-101 editor,

as well as a Yamaha DX7/TX7 editor, an Ensoniq Mirage editor, and a comprehensive Score Writer for transcribing existing Pro 16 sequence files all at extra cost and purchased separately. So you could compose a piece on the Pro 16, record it direct from the synthesiser, and prepare a professional-quality transcription in standard musical notation at the same time.

Now that the cost of the C64 has dropped, the investment needed on Midi synthesisers is less significant. Luckily they have come down in price too, and will

continue to do so over the next couple of years. If you do go for the Pro 16 you really are getting a professional music system, but one which is incredibly easy to approach and operate.

Mark Jenkins



Casio CZ-101 Editor

**Hardware** Steinberg Midi Interfaces £135 and £35 respectively. **Real Time/Step Time Software** £90. **Micro Commodore 64 Supplier** (via) Oxford Synthesiser Company, Flat 5, Gladstone Court, Gladstone Rd, Headington, Oxford. Tel: 08675 5277.

*The Age of Archon is ending. Mighty wars of magic rage  
and monsters roam the elements hungry for power and prey.  
The doom of a apocalypse shadows all.*

# ARCHON II ADEPT

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## It's not all jungles and chit-chat

*Christina Erskine looks at artist Hugh Riley's (left) work on Compunet – a selection of which is shown here*

One of the most successful features on the Commodore-specific database Compunet is its Art Gallery section. Here, budding artists can upload pictures screens – still or animated – simply as a display, for other subscribers to flip through and view. A new section called Live Action, has also been set up to cater specifically for animated demonstrations, which can include music.

Compunet editor Jane Firbank has run several competitions within the Gallery,

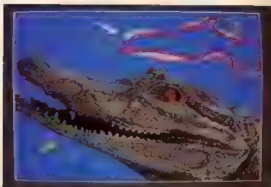
which has stimulated interest both from participants and those who just want to see the pictures. The best artists frequently come out top of Compunet celebrity votes compiled by subscribers.

At any one time, there are usually 40-50 artists displaying one or more works of art on these pages.

Among the Gallery's most proficient and prolific artists are Bob Ste-

yet-to-be-released *Dan Dare*, and Hugh Riley.

Hugh, an unemployed art college graduate, was introduced to Compunet when he won the Commodore International Art Challenge in 1984. A modem was part of his £5000 endowment prize, Compunet



Examples of Hugh Riley's work which can be seen on Compunet's Art Gallery section

venson, who has gone on to design loading screens for Firebird's *Thrust* and its forthcoming game, *Empire*; Stu Jackson, who has written the loading screen for Virgin's

had just been set up, and Hugh got going.

An enthusiastic member of Compunet, he takes part in many of its sections, but it is his art in the Gallery that most subscribers want to see.

"Compunet always fully encouraged me right from the beginning," says Hugh. "It paid for my first screens, for a start, putting them in its free Hall of Fame pages, which encouraged me to create more pictures for it. I started with low-res pictures, just using the Commodore keyboard, but for the more recent hi-res examples, I use the Audiogenic Koala pad.

"More recently still, I've been doing animated pictures for the Gallery – I did a lot of animation work at Art College."

His animated pieces attracted the attention of Commodore UK in Corby, which provided Hugh with the software to create a series of animation sequences on the Amiga, which will be strongly featured at the Amiga's UK launch at the Commodore Computer show next month.

One of Hugh's personal favourites is the Alligator, a hi-res example pictured here. The tiger is a picture created on the Amiga, showing off the effects created by the choice of colours on the machine.

To see Hugh Riley's work on Compunet, the Art Gallery can be accessed by Compunet subscribers on page 800. Anyone wishing to join Compunet should contact the database 7-11 Minerva Road, London NW10 6HJ.



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## Sport of Kings

**H**orse racing games don't have a happy history. I remember one including anomalies like four mile flat races while another was totally unplayable – which was probably in its favour. It's a surprise to find this in the 'up-market' MAD range – Mastertronic's way of saying that 'this game is a little bit better than the norm'. Usually true – witness *The Last V8*.

This makes no bones about it – betting is the sport of kings. Up to five people gamble imaginary money on imaginary horses which may or may not get your adrenalin going.

It's all controlled by the obligatory icons, which don't work as smoothly as some I've seen. Maybe icons aren't such a good idea after all. Difficulty levels are based on an optional number of variables, real masochists going for jockeys, weights and ground as well as horses and distances. To play the game properly you need a mathematical mind capable of juggling 20 different ideas at once – not fast reactions.

Win, each way and forecast bets are allowed and some care has been taken to try to simulate the imponderables of following form.

The program uses the Curran speech unit if you want to hear the commentary as read by a superior grade of Datsun and there's a printer option which I'd say is almost obligatory if you want to keep proper track of the form book, otherwise you'll spend all of your time scribbling notes and rechecking tables.

So they're off – with reasonable race graphics – and this is a winner but in a very small field.

Reasonable means the grass looks green and the horses have at least four legs. It rates as moderately visually exciting but no more.

If you're a gambling addict it may help you through Sundays and rained off cards, but otherwise its main value is as an object lesson in how nobody beats the system.

John Minson

**Program Sport of Kings Micro**  
Spectrum 48K Price £2.99 Supplier Mastertronic Ltd, 6-10 Paul St, London EC2A 4JU



## War Play

**T**here's been many a good idea spoiled by poor execution, and Anco's *War Play* is a perfect example.

The idea was to take the key elements from the war game scenario, dress them up with detailed 3D graphics and turn the whole into a combined

strategy/arcade game.

You can play against the computer, or against a friend, each side controlling a military force comprising fighter and bomber planes, and tanks.

The action takes place against a scrolling 3D background of airfields, armed compounds and wooded areas.

There are random elements too, such as the anti-aircraft missiles that whip across the

## Jack

**B**y the year 2112 AD android design will have reached such heights that they'll look like animated dustbins – but at least they'll also have cute names like Jack.

Unluckily, they'll also be able to get lost in time, which is what has happened to our garbage can man.

His only hope of a happy homecoming is to locate the 32

time rings in each of three time zones...

Now, Jack is a maze game with a race against time, as too much exposure to the rings' radiation leads to loss of life. However, there's an extra life for each five rings collected.

The most interesting feature of the game is its scale – it's big. This means that to plan the best route you have to check the neighbouring screens – the initial approach isn't always the best when it comes to dodging the obligatory bouncing

screen.

So far, so good. But in one-player mode, it plays about as well as a pianist with boxing gloves on. The aircraft are difficult to control and the lack of shadows makes it impossible to gauge height – crucial for bombing runs.

I had a bit more success with the tank but that too kept bashing blindly into walls and jamming against trees. To be fair, *War Play* was designed as a two-player game and it's far better in this mode where the competitive aspects make up for some of the problems. Far from earth-shattering though.

As a budget-range game, say about £2.99, it would be acceptable, but at full price it can't be recommended.

Peter Worlock

**Program War Play Micro**  
Commodore 64 Price £7.95 (£10.95 on disc) Supplier Anco Software, Unit 10, Victoria Industrial Park, Victoria Road, Dartford, Kent

nasities.

It all calls for some little planning and a bit of experimentation.

Nothing original then and nothing particularly striking, even at the budget price – but it should hold your attention for a few hours on a rainy spring Sunday.

John Minson

**Program Jack & the Time Rings Micro**  
Spectrum 48K Price £1.99 Supplier Atlantis Software Limited, 19 Prebend Street, London N1 8PF

## Wing Commander

**W**ith Biggles taking to the air soon, and Microprose bringing out more and more sophisticated flight simulators such as *Acrojet*, it seems that the popularity of air battle games is endless.

Mastertronic has reissued *Wing Commander*, formerly a full-price Creative Sparks title, at just the right time, by the looks of it. Neither too complex nor too undemanding, it maintains the excitement of air combat without sacrificing all the demands of realism.

The screen presents the fa-

miliar through-the-canopy view of the horizon and controls and indicators are stylised but easy to under-



stand. Damage, altitude, compass, fuel, ammo, power, speed and altitude are among the most important.

Your task is to intercept enemy bombers, displayed on a map screen showing your is-

land base, before they destroy their targets. You must then return to base and slow down enough to safely land (although I admit that I haven't yet made it this far).

The combat and refuelling sequences are exciting and the graphics and sound generally very good.

An excellent purchase at £1.99; though not complex enough for simulation freaks or action-packed enough for pure arcade fans.

Chris Jenkins

**Program Wing Commander Type Arcade/Simulation**  
Machine CBM 64 Price £1.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 8-10 Paul Street, London EC2

## Golf Construction

**W**e've had football, tennis, baseball and American football – not to mention bizarre offerings like canoeing. There have also been a few attempts at golf but none to match this release from Ariolasoft.

The *Golf Construction Set* is one of the most intelligent sports simulations yet to appear and remains an extremely enjoyable game.

The list of features is vast: four actual courses including Royal St Georges and Wentworth; a full set of clubs – five woods, nine irons, putter, sand wedge and pitching wedge each rated for difficulty and distance; variable weather and course conditions; and realistic handicapping.

You start the game by selecting a course and either pre-set or definable weather. Condi-

tions like wind, air temperature and how hard the ground is have an effect on the length of your shot. Club selection, direction and power in the swing are joystick controlled. Ad-




vanced players can also attempt to deliberately hook or slice their shots.

The graphic displays are excellent. You get a plan view of the hole showing the fairway, rough, bunkers and water hazards, together with pin-placement on the greens. Graphics alongside the display indicate slopes across and along the hole, as well as wind-strength and direction.

A 3D display gives you a realistic view of your ball as it vanishes into the woods, lakes or sand traps, or simply drops out of bounds (I said it was realistic).

When you master the four pre-set courses, you can begin designing your own – modelling them on existing courses or dreaming up nightmares from your imagination.

If you and your  have already won every Olympic gold medal going, taken Fulham to the FA Cup Final, re-gained the Ashes, and paddled a kayak over Niagara Falls, *The Golf Construction Set* holds endless new challenges. Whether you're a golfer or not it's highly recommended.

Peter Worlock


**Program** *The Golf Construction Set* **Micro** Commodore 64 **Price** disc £14.95 twin cassette £12.95 **Supplier** Ariolasoft, 68 Long Acre, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9JH

## Starstrike II

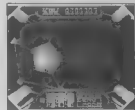
**L**ong time, no Realtime – was once a master of vector 3D games, and of those *Starstrike* was the finest, reducing even a cynical reviewer to cries of 'Whooargh!' and an unholy bloodlust as I blasted the aliens.

Suddenly it's back with a sequel, only now the enemy craft and battle-stations are shaded and solid looking.

First up is the almost obligatory pseudo-Elite screen, adding a degree of tactics to the wholesale slaughter you're about to unleash. You need to choose the star system and planet therein for your first bout of outsider annihilation carefully as some are less well defended than others. After this you'll find yourself flying towards an enemy space wheel with its defence pods to blast before docking. It's up to you to co-ordinate with the rotation so that you can dock. Déjà vu, any of you *Elite* out there?

Next comes the iris valve hanger exit which is constantly opening and closing. Next it's into space again  take on the orbital fighters. This is a question of using your radar carefully and calls for extremely sharp reactions.

The ground attack provides some planet flying, and blasting and leads to a ventilation duct sequence before you



immobilise the planet and move on to the next one.


Good solid stuff with graphics that are acceptably smooth, but somehow it failed to thrill me quite as much as its predecessor.

Still, I can think of far worse ways to spend my time.

John Minson

**Program** *Starstrike II* **Micro** Spectrum 48K **Price** £7.95 **Supplier** Realtime Software, Prospect House, 32 Sovereign Street, Leeds LS1 4BJ.

## Sodov the Sorcerer


**A** sorcerer's life is infuriating – so much so that the hero of this game  reduced to shouting his name at the dinosaurs which charge his castle gates. Meanwhile his YOPs course apprentice stirs away at the pot in the courtyard, a tender morsel for a hungry monster.


At the start Sodov patrols the castle battlements, blasting away with cross-hair magical targeting. His alchemical arsenal turns the tyrannosaur into gold.

His shots are strictly limited

unless he ascends a tower and shouts to his lucky star.

However, while a cloud covers the heavenly spire there's no recharging, and worse – bolts of lightning sap his strength as does an unfriendly red spider.

Eventually a reptile will reach the gate and crank it up at which point Sodov has to race down the tower  if he fails to zap the kidnapper before it snatches the apprentice snack, it's out to the second screen. Here Sodov lays mines with the cross hairs in an attempt to rescue his assistant. While waiting for the dinosaur to destroy itself he can run round collecting the gold. Then

he drags his YOP into the castle, because if he loses all three youths he's a gonner – as he is  the dinosaurs reach him or blast him too often with their breath.

It's a lively scenario with attractive graphics, but the game lacks playability and though it's an entertainingly varied and original shoot 'em up it soon becomes infuriating, so you too may find yourself shouting 'Sodov!'

John Minson

**Program** *Sodov the Sorcerer* **Micro** Spectrum 48K **Price** £2.95 **Supplier** Bug-Byte, Liberty House, 222 Regent Street, London W1R 7DB

## Twister

**W**ho knows what evil lurks in human hearts? Twister, 'the blackest-hearted dweller in Hades', according to System 3, which has produced a nice family game... the family being the mother and daughter team of Twister and Charlotte. Only one who is pure of heart and mind can go battle against this evil – or failing that, a computer games player!

Despite the packaging blurb which is a fine brew of satanic

mumbo-jumbo, warped enough to have any fundamentalist foaming at the mouth, *Twister* turns out to be nothing more than a shoot 'em up – proof, if needed, that the battle against evil is just glorified Space Invaders. Ahh, but what a shoot 'em up. This is just the thing for anybody who has become shell shocked with overly sophisticated games.

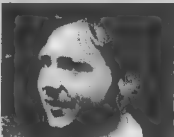
The first section is reasonably simple, as you leap across what look like floating typewriter keys, collecting mystical symbols and blasting the hordes of darkness. The next stage is more difficult though

as you warp from one side of a grid to the other, still blasting and collecting. So you move from dimension to dimension until you face the wrath of Twister herself.

This is enlivened by some gloriously grotesque graphics for the minions and a well balanced game play making *Twister* a good, fairly mindless diversion.

John Minson

**Program** *Twister* **Micro** Spectrum 48K **Price** £7.50 **Supplier** System 3, Davis House, 29 Hutton Garden, London EC1N 8DA



# Commodore and Amstrad conversions – an update

Tony Kendle with the latest news on many long-awaited conversions of successful titles. Plus: the first part of the complete solution to Gargoyle's Marsport

**B**ecause the Spectrum and Amstrad computers share the same Z80 microprocessor it is not uncommon to find that both versions of a game are written by the same team, but when it comes to the Commodore, there has to be new expertise brought in and sometimes a new game results.

This has happened recently with the extremely successful and widely acclaimed release of *Zoids*, the Commodore version of which seems very different to the Z80 ones. We've had a few tips for the game already but I would like to ask anyone who has any info for the game, in particular on the Commodore version, to send it in.

Whilst talking about conversions, any readers who were put off by the recall of Amstrad *Elite* by Firebird may be interested to know that all problems have now been fixed and that a fully working version should be in the shops at the time you read this.

### General verdict

For some strange reason, the whole industry seems to have trouble keeping up with conversions for Amstrad machines. It's all too common to see the words "Amstrad version soon" (for which we can sometimes read, "possibly never") in the ads, which is strange for what is, after all, the best-selling new home micro for years.

Another Amstrad release that we seem to have been waiting ages for is *Monty On The Run* from Gremlin, the game that re-wrote that definition of background music even on the already wonderful Commodore. I understand that this will be appearing by the end of the month and the good news is that Gremlin feels very pleased with the conversion.

One game that I have got many inquiries about, but very few hard facts, is the Amstrad version of *Commando* – in computing terms it is not really that far behind the Spectrum/Commodore versions but it is so eagerly awaited that it seems like ages.

In the meantime Allgate is cleaning up with *Who Dares Wins II*, a very playable game indeed but generally agreed to be not as good as *Commando* on those machines where versions of the latter exist.

For the Spectrum, Ultimate's *Cyberun* has finally surfaced, only to be met with general disappointment all round – "it's

just a shoot-up without any real technical innovation" seems to be the general verdict. Being more of a traditionalist and a fan of shoot-ups, I will personally reserve judgement on *Cyberun* until I've played it longer.

It seems that Ultimate can't win these days, and it makes me wonder whether there has been a shake-up behind the scenes with the departure of whoever had the good ideas. The acclaim that games like Ocean's *Batman* received, compared to *Nightshade*, shows that it isn't just the idea of 3D games (for example) that people are bored with – there is still a market if the plot is good.

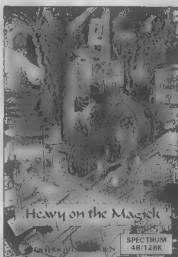
Commodore owners are perhaps in a better situation in that they have a steady trickle of often excellent software from US Gold, most of which is already in the can when the adverts appear. This level of competition has put off some home computer software companies from attempting Commodore conversions, but the good news is that Gargoyle Games, producer of our most consistently innovative and high quality releases, has relied on its "no Commodore" policy for its next game, *Heavy on the Magic*.

Everyone who has seen this in the office has been knocked out by it – the quality of the animation and the sense of fun are outstanding and Roy Carter of Gargoyle promises that it will be a long time before anyone solves this one.

Sticking with Gargoyle for a bit, readers who ordered copies of our *Arcade Champions Guide* will no doubt be making good use of the *Marsport* map that it contains. However, to mark the occasion of the new game we will give the complete *Marsport* solution over the next few weeks.

### Sense of fun

I'll assume that everyone has got at least as far as getting the gun and knows how to keep it charged. For those who haven't seen the map I'll repeat the point that the sept warriors move in consistent directions around a square – if you know which way they go you can often avoid them altogether. If you meet a sept coming at you in the middle of one corridor you can be sure that if you keep walking the next one will be in the middle of the next corridor, and so on. When entering a new area, or a part where the sept go in both directions, wait until one comes into sight



*Heavy on the Magic* from Gargoyle Games

and head towards it. In that way you can be sure not to bump into them at the corner.

Warden robots can go in any direction and are much more tricky. You can wait around until you see them coming, but even this is not foolproof if you want to go into the corridor that they come from – always save the game when near them.

The first task is to get the baking tin, water and flour from Daley level. Go to the bakery in Daley and Factor these to make a cake. The cake is the key to the bakery. In the bakery you will find some dough.

Also on Daley level you will find some charcoal – keep this.

To get through the danger door on Ellis level you must take the dust bomb and put it in the refuse shoot. Do this every time you pass through. Once through you will find access to many more levels – most immediately Joly and Laxa.

The next job is to get through the danger room on level Iaxa C. To do this you need a gas mask, so combine the gauze you find down on Joly with the charcoal to make a gas mask. With this you can enter the danger room. When the bomb has gone off, place the gas mask in the locker in the danger room for further use.

Once through you will be able to find the ice room which contains an ice pack and a cornet (geddit?). More next week.



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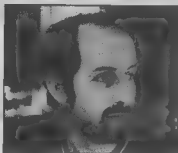
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## Adventure designers – growing numbers

*Tony Bridge evaluates a new adventure writer for the Spectrum, an area where the Quill has recently reigned supreme*

Until quite recently, the only adventure-writing utility available to the general public (apart from one's own programming ability) was Gilsoft's *The Quill*, which regular readers will know gets my personal vote for the most useful program ever released, and surely largely responsible for the current popularity of adventures. There are now a couple more such utilities for the Amstrad, but apart from the ill-fated *Graphic Adventure Writer* from Dream Software, *The Quill* has reigned supreme for the Spectrum. But not for long. I think, if J Hyde has anything to do with it! A copy of his suite of programs, called, with great imagination, *Adventure Writer* landed on the Grand Elf's desk a couple of weeks ago, and it's certainly a viable alternative to the *Quill* route.

The package consists of three modules to aid the adventure writer, and a free adventure written with the utility itself. The emphasis throughout the package is on user-friendliness, and I found the modules to be very much easier to use than *The Quill*, though a similar database style is used. The ease of use is evident from the start from the manual, which is a sheet of A4 folded in half, but this is entirely sufficient for the average dufferhead like me.

*The Writer* is the first module, and it is this program that the author will use to construct the framework of his or her adventure. The editing menus are all driven by the cursor keys, to select the options, and the plus and minus keys, to change the values. From the colourful main menu you will be able to edit location, object and command texts as well as setting the dimensions of the adventure – thus you can elect to change the number of locations, for example, or the number of objects and so on, each change affecting the

other values. The default values set at the start are 120 locations, 150 words in a location or object description and 100 objects, commands and recognised words, and although these can be changed, it is at the expense of the others, so a fine balancing act is called for.

Once the parameters of your adventure are set (up to 800 locations, even more are possible though impractical, and 500 words or 250 objects), the main menu allows selection of one of the other editors, each of which displays a sub-menu after choosing the number of the location, command or object which worked on. The manual is very short, but is hardly needed, as each menu is almost completely self-explanatory.

Choosing the location editor displays the description box, changed to reflect the length that has been selected from the dimension editor, and into which you will type the description of the location; beneath this is a list of directions available from the location together with the location to which each connects.

### Sudden death

The usual compass points are present as well as up and down and a couple of unusual ones – 'time' allows for a location to which the game jumps in certain circumstances (when offered a command that it doesn't recognise), useful for timing situations (for example "you hear footsteps approaching"), while 'chain' joins two locations together, thus allowing for a longer description than you may have decided upon for the rest of the adventure. As well as these options, you may elect to make the location an "end" location, that is one which, when visited, brings about a "sudden death" finish to the game.

Via the command editor, the author then defines each separate command, telling the program which object the player must be carrying before a command is obeyed, what the computer's reply will be (thus, a specific reply to 'help',

for example, may be given), any alternative input recognised and so on. Several universal commands, such as *Save*, *Load*, *Inventory*, *Drop*, *Get* and so on, as well as all the direction commands are built in, and do not have to be defined.

The object editor is a little different: unlike the previous two sections which presented each location or command on its own screen, objects are presented as a list, as each object can be described on one line. Against each number, the author types in the name of the object, the weight and the starting position. The weight parameter is particularly interesting, with each degree of weight returning a different reply (so, one or two means the object can be picked up – if your load is getting too heavy, you'll get "you can't", "don't be silly" and so on).

### Weird objects

That's all there is to planning your own adventure: the second module on the tape amalgamates all the information together under your filename and creates a stand-alone game. The third program allows a printout of all the adventure data, though sadly only on a ZX or ZX compatible printer.

Last but not least is the example adventure, *The House of the Dead*, which shows the strengths and weaknesses of the system. The adventure itself is well worth playing, with some interesting problems and locations; I particularly like the way in which the player must choose just a few of a multitude of weird and wonderful objects near the start. A few locations into the game, and you'll find a one-way connection, so the correct objects must be carried, and the program very sneakily gives vague clues which seem to make every object desirable.

The only drawback is that the *Writer* and the adventure it creates is in Basic, and so the responses are typically 4-5 seconds. Of course, we have now been subjected to very expensive adventures with 20 second responses! The screen layout is a little pedestrian, but a graphic utility is promised soon, which I look forward to with relish. Mr Hyde's *Adventure Writer* is the best value I have seen for many months, at just £6.95 (£5.95 for the graphic utility) from J Hyde, 303 Buxton Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7ET.

### Adventure Helpline

Going bananas? If you are stuck in an Adventure with nowhere to turn to do despair – help is at hand.

Fill in the coupon, explaining your problem, send it to us, and a fellow adventurer may be able to help.

Remember – the system only works if those adventurers who have solved the puzzles get in touch. Every week is Save An Adventurer Today (SAAT) week!

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Problem: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADVENTURE HELPLINE

**Fourth Protocol on Spectrum.** I cannot get contact from BT and am unable to travel to Sweden. Kevin Zammit, 373 Portsmouth Road, Easing, Southampton.

**Mission 1, Project Volcano on Spectrum.** I can't seem to get past the droid in the lift to get to level two. John Stewart, 12 Fairlawn Court, Cherry Orchard Estate, London SE7 7DK.

**Deadline on Commodore 64.** How do I solve the murder and complete the game? M. Tortolano, 11 Douglas Terrace, Stirling, Scotland.

**Warlord on Spectrum.** How do you get the amulet from the droid? Lesita Battell, 11 Colman Close, Abingdon, Oxon.

**Hitchhiker's Guide on IBM PC.** How do you open the screening door - or do you? M. Sheehan, Box 100, 7 N Audley Street, London W1.

**Hempstead on BBC.** I know I need a lathe bracket before getting on the train. How do I get it? Dave Palfani, 15 Deloraine House, Tanners Hill, London SE6.

**Empire of Kern on C64.** I can't get the diamond

near the sapphire, nor get into the palace and hole in the roof. Lisa Bingley, 43 Logan Street, Mt Harborough, Leics (0856 66456).

**The Hobbit on C64.** I am trapped in the goblin' dungeon and cannot reach the window. C. Carrington, 167 Gayfield Avenue, B'Hill, West Midlands, DY5 2BP.

**Castle Quest on BBC.** How do I use the wand? Jimmy M, 119 High Street, Plumstead, London SE18.

**Sphinx on Electron.** I can't get anywhere except the forest and the lake. Debbie Walker, 112 Stapleton Hall Road, London N4 4QA.

**Lord of the Rings on Spectrum.** I can't find Strider or scale the wooden gate. Anna Waterhouse, 20 Alan Road, Withington, Manchester, M20 9NG.

**Catacombs on Plus/4.** I can't remove the boulder blocking the way very early on in the game. David Speaks, 15 Kent Drive, Cockfosters, Herts.

**Lord of the Rings on Spectrum.** I can't get out of the maze of trees which move. Paul Hunter, 111 Tidesley Road, Putney, London SW15 3AU.

**81 Brides on Spectrum.** Where is the cat? W. Walters, 32 Varney Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

**Supernova on Spectrum.** Need code for second

level to enter Armageddon. Mrs H Baldwin, 15 Park Drive, Quodale, Gloucs.

**Sorcerer of Claymorgue Castle on Spectrum.** I'm in the castle, I've got a star and some spells - how do I progress from here? Do I use the star? PITCH A I M Torrance, Officers Mess, RAF Finningley, Doncaster, S Yorks.

**Zork II on C64.** How do you get past the dragon? Why does the wizard appear? What is circular room? Is it a well? How do I climb up? What do the letters on the wall of the circular room mean? What is the bucket for? How do I get the key from the unicorn? What does it open? How do you get past the wizard's head on the door? What is the candy for? How do I get past the menhir? Darren Gregory, 11 Ludlow Grove, Bispham, Blackpool, Lancs.

**Morden's Quest on Atari.** How do I get to the octopus and get past the invisible barrier? John Woolston, 401 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, Herts.

**Colossal Cave (550 pt) on CP/M.** How do I explore plover room, and how do I open the walk-in safe? David Lore, Carlton House, Todmorden Road, Bacup, Lancs.

**Sphinx Adventure on Electron.** I cannot find the mouse. G. Hamer, 201 Athlone Avenue, Bolton, BL1 6QS.

**House on Damned Hill on Spectrum.** How do I get into the house? Heather Lofthouse, 30 Graham St. Liverton, Saltburn, Cleveland.

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### Doctor Who part 3 the story so far

Time Lords order DOCTOR WHO to regain the plans of the Time Instant Replay Unit and thwart the 'evil' MASTER. Having tricked his way past the Madrag and numerous robot controllers, he enters the Factory Area, finds the electronic spanner and now seeks a route to Security to get the Pass Card.

Crossing the central lift shaft and riding the Monorail gets him to the RHS of the complex. After false starts he climbs a long ladder and crosses to some firmly-closed hatches. The dynamite from the mine may work. However, the spanner has the desired effect.

Investigating further reveals frantic 'CONTROLLER' activity - a sure indication of a sensitive area! Objects in the wall turn out to be security beams, causing General Alert. He retraces his steps, waits and then tries again.

Finally avoiding the guards he finds a room with 3 detonators and below a guarded and locked safe-room (containing the Pass Card). Two floors up a VDU gives him a clue for deciphering the de-coder card.

### WATCH THIS SPACE FOR PART 4

# MICROPOWER

Dealers: **FREE** Demo Program and/or distribution information - Ring Mike on (0532) 458800

### COMMODORE

CASSETTE £11.95  
DISK £13.95

### BBC MICRO

16K ROM PLUS CASSETTE £18.95  
16K ROM PLUS DISK £19.95

### AMSTRAD (E.T.A. May)

CASSETTE £11.95  
DISK £16.95

### SPECTRUM (E.T.A. June)

CASSETTE £11.95

# DOCTOR WHO



## TIME RACE

by Shane Dawson

The object of this game is to use the joystick hard, since barriers are placed at random to block your way. There is also a 20 second time limit, and once the time runs out the game ends.

You only have one life, and this is lost when you run into a barrier. Level one is quite easy, since there are only 40 barriers, but as you progress to the next level (after reaching the top of the screen) it becomes harder, as more barriers are placed in your way. Forty more barriers are added at each level. Good luck!

### Program Notes

#### Variables

- X - Barrier (x value)
- Y - Barrier (y value)
- A - number of barriers
- LV - Level
- TIS - Time

- C - Colour value.
- Y - X coordinate of player.
- J - Y coordinate of player.
- Number of barriers (pairs) permitted on each level.
- Used for collision detection.
- Start of screen memory.
- Other variables.

- |         |                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Line No |                                     |
| 40      | Clear variables                     |
| 50      | On error goto line 310              |
| 60-90   | Set variables & volume & colours.   |
|         | Clear screen.                       |
| 100-120 | Random x and y values for barriers. |
|         | Print them on the screen.           |
| 130     | Colour of barriers.                 |
| 140     | Sends to line 90.                   |
| 150     | Set time at 0 seconds.              |
| 160-200 | Checks joystick input.              |
| 210     | Collision detection                 |
| 220     | Print player on screen and          |

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 230     | check for collision.  |
| 240     | Sends to line 340.  |
| 250     | Check to see if time is 20 seconds.                         |
| 260     | Sends to line 180.  |
| 270     | Colour (brown).   |
| 270-290 | Print time, level and number of barriers on that level.     |
| 300     | Returns joystick input.                                     |
| 310-320 | Set colours and clear screen.                               |
| 330     | End program.  |
| 340     | Sound effects.  |
| 350     | Print out game over.  |
| 360     | Time loop. Sends to line 410.                               |
| 370     | Increase level and barriers. Place man at bottom of screen. |
|         | Set time to 0 seconds.                                      |
|         | Sound effects.  |
|         | Send to line 180.   |
| 410-430 | Ask for another game.                                       |
| 440-460 | Check joystick input and send to appropriate line number.   |
| 470     | Send to line 440.   |

```

10 REM ** --RACE FOR THE TIME-- **
20 REM **
30 REM ** BY SHANE DAWSON **
40 CLR
50 TMAP=10
60 WND C=2 D=19 LV=1 J=20 K=24 VOL=0 P=3072
80 COLORS=1 COLORS=1
88 SCHOL
90 COL=1 C=4
100 X=INT(RND(1)*63)
110 Y=INT(RND(1)*63)
120 C=INT(1+V*32) C=0 A=1 IF C=2 THEN C=50
130 C=C+1 IF C=16 THEN C=2
140 GOTO 98
150 TIS=0
160 OCT=0 IF JOY(2)=0 THEN SOUNDS=0
170 IF JOY(2)=1 THEN C=C+1 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
180 IF JOY(2)=0 THEN C=C+1 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
190 IF JOY(2)=1 THEN C=C+1 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
200 IF JOY(2)=0 THEN C=C+1 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
210 WND=1 J=K+1
220 COL=1 C=1 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
230 GOTO 98

```

```

240 IF TIS=0 THEN C=0
250 GOTO 160
260 COL=1 C=1
270 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
280 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
290 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
300 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
310 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
320 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
330 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
340 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
350 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
360 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
370 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
380 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
390 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
400 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
410 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
420 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
430 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
440 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
450 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
460 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50
470 C=1 J=K+1 IF C=16 THEN C=50

```

# Programming: Amstrad



## SUBMARINE

by Daniel Bishop

This is a game for one player, and as well as having an arcade appeal, it is also a game of deduction and sensory perception!

The scenario is fairly straightforward. You are the captain of a fast sub destroyer

and have orders to locate and destroy an enemy submarine in your vicinity. However, you only have a limited amount of time and just ten depth charges. To help you find the submarine you will have to listen carefully to your sonar soundings.

When you run the program, the screen display will appear. The computer will then wait for you to either press a key, move the joystick or press the fire button. When you do this, the game will start.

The large blue oblong is an aerial view

of the sea. The white symbol ■ your ship. You may cruise around this area of sea but may not leave it. Neither may the submarine. At the bottom of the screen there are two gauges which show the current speed and helm position of your ship. Also shown are the number of depth charges and the time left.

To increase the throttle, push the joystick forward (or press the + key). To decrease the throttle, pull the joystick back (or press the ? key). To bear left, push the joystick left (or press the Z key) and to bear right, push the joystick right (or press the X key). Practise manoeuvring your ship. It may take some getting used to and bear in mind that the helm is more sensitive at high speed.

At the start the submarine will be out of sonar range. You must search the sea to find where the sub is hiding. Once in range, the sub will reflect the sound pulse of your sonar. You will hear the faint echo shortly after each pulse is sent out. As you home in on the submarine, the delay between the outgoing and incoming pulses will decrease. Also your sonar will automatically start ■ pulse more frequently. You should learn to judge the range ■ the submarine by listening to the pause between the outgoing pulse and its echo.

More program notes and listing next week.

```
10 REM- LOCATE & DESTROY! / ■ solo ga
20 REM-
30 REM- by DANIEL J. BISHOP
40 REM- Version 1.0A
50 REM- Runs on CPC464/CPC664/CPC6128
70 REM-
80 MODE 2: BORDER 11: INK 8,26: INK 1,2
90 SYMBOL AFTER 224
100 SYMBOL 224,0,16,56,56,56,56,56,0
110 SYMBOL 225,0,8,4,74,56,112,32,0
120 SYMBOL 226,0,8,0,8,255,254,0,0
130 SYMBOL 227,0,32,112,56,24,4,0,0
140 SYMBOL 228,0,28,28,28,28,20,20,0,0
150 SYMBOL 229,0,4,14,28,24,32,8,0
160 SYMBOL 230,0,8,127,255,0,0,0,0
170 SYMBOL 231,0,8,32,24,28,14,4,0
180 DEF FNrange=INT(500/(501FX-SUBX))*
24(SUBY-SUBY)*2+SUBZX*2)
190 DEF
200 ENV 1,28,0,1,15,-1,3
210 ENV 2,9,-1,2
220 ENV 3,6,2,5,12,-1,18
230 DIM SHIP(7)
240 FOR L=0 TO 7: SHIP(L)=CHR$(22
4+L):NEXT
250 SCORE=0
260 LOCATE 1,23:PRINT " H.M.S. "TAB(2)
1:"SPEED"TAB(46)"HELM"TAB(65)"DARGES"
TAB(76)"TIME"
270 PRINT " ANGLE"PRINT TAB(13)"IDL
E"TAB(23)"FULL"TAB(38)"PORT"TAB
(49)"STARBOARD"
280 HOME 95,28: DRAWER 0,9,1: DRAWER 161,
8: DRAWER 8,-9: DRAWER -161,0
290 HOME 295,28: DRAWER 0,9: DRAWER 161,0
: DRAWER 8,-9: DRAWER -161,0
300 HOME 376,10: DRAWER 0,13
310 ORIGIN 0,56,0,639,359,56: CLG 1
320 SHIPFX=END(1)+639: SHIPFY=END(1)+383
: SUBZX=END(1)+15: SHIPFZX=END(1)+368
SUBOZ=END(1)+368
330 SUBX=END(1)+639: SUBY=END(1)+383: I
F FNrange<308 THEN GOTO 338
340 SPOX=0: HELMX=0: DOX=10: THE=18: SONA
R=1: SUBZX=-1: BAREDO=0
350 THE=...LOCATE & DESTROY!...:BOS
US 1648:PRINT CHR$(8):CHR$(32)
360 S88=INKEY$:IF S88<>" THEN 368
370 WHILE S88="" AND JOY(0)=8: S88=IN
KEY$:END
380 FOR L=0 TO 2000:NEXT
390 THE=THE+
400 S88=0: B70
410 RANGE=FNrange
420 IF SUBZX<3 AND RANGE<6 THEN BA
REDO=1:GOSUB 1120:GOSUB 1490:GOSUB 1
368:GOTO 330
430 IF THE=0 THEN BAREDO=2:GOSUB 149
0:GOSUB 1368:GOTO 330
440 IF SUBZX=3 AND END(1)<8.1 AND RA
NGE<188 THEN GOSUB 1490:IF BAREDO=3
THEN GOSUB 1120:GOSUB 1490:GOSUB 136
8:GOTO 330
450 SOUND 2,1000:SPOX=5,38,SPOX=5,34
460 IF SONARZ THEN GOSUB 1248:SONAR=
8:IF RANGE<150 THEN AFTER 10:RANGE=
1,3/5:GOSUB 1290 ELSE AFTER 150:GOSUB
1358
470 IF INKEY(54)=0 THEN GOSUB 818:TP=
...LOCATE & DESTROY!...:GOSUB 1648
:PRINT CHR$(8):CHR$(32)
480 USERX=JOY(0)
490 IF INKEY(28)=0 THEN USERX=USERX+1
500 IF INKEY(38)=0 THEN USERX=USERX+2
510 IF INKEY(7)=0 THEN USERX=USERX+4
520 IF INKEY(63)=0 THEN USERX=USERX+8
530 IF INKEY(47)=0 THEN USERX=USERX+1
6
540 IF USERX<16 AND USERX<241 THEN
GOSUB 1808:GOSUB 1368:GOSUB 870 ELSE
570
580 IF BAREDO=4 THEN GOSUB 1120:GOSUB
8:1490:GOSUB 1368:GOTO 330
```

## Programming: QL



## CAPSCLOCK

by D Witheroe

the 'boot' program.

Enter the program below, taking care to get the line numbers exactly right. Save it as, say, *mdv1-timeset*; now load the original 'boot' file, and Merge *mdv1-timeset*. Note that you must load 'boot' and merge 'timeset', not the other way about. Then delete the original 'boot' file and save the modified file as 'boot'.

On the subject of modifying Capslock, the window positions chosen were selected specifically to suit Quill in 80-column mode; if you wish to use the program in another mode or with another program you may have to alter these position. You may want ■ change the Paper and Ink colours used, and perhaps add borders to the windows.

The relevant numbers in the data statements ■ the Basic loader (printed last week) can be altered according to the table below. But you'll no longer be able to use the error-checking in the loader program, since some checksums will no longer be correct; hence the option to turn the

error-checking off.

For those values which require two numbers to be altered, you divide the value you want to enter by 256: the result of the division goes in the first number, and the remainder goes in the second. ■ you want to add a border to either or both of the windows, you must also adjust the window width and height to make room for the border. The formulae for calculating the necessary window size are:  
Window width = Text width + (border \* 4)  
Window height = 10 + (border width \* 2)  
Text width for the Caps Lock window is 54; for the clock window, 120. That's if you are running the program in monitor mode. I haven't experimented with TV mode, but I should think you'd have to double these values to get Capslock to run in that mode.

Copies of both programs can be obtained from me, on microdrive for £4. Cheques to 19 Glen Lyon, St Leonards, East Kilbride, G74 2JL.

continued over the page ▶

Line	Column	Orig Num	Alteration
20240	1	0	To alter clock window:
20240	2	0	Border colour
20240	3	0	Border width
20240	4	7	Window paper colour
20240	5,6	0,120	Window ink colour
20240	7,8	0,10	Window width
20250	1,2	0,162	Window height
20250	3,4	0,246	X-coord of top left-corner of window
20250			Y-coord of top left corner of window
20250	5	0	To alter CAPS LOCK window:
20250	6	0	Border colour
20250	7	0	Border width
20250	8	4	Window paper colour
20250			Window ink colour (colour of 'CAPS:')
20260	1,2	0,54	Window width
20260	3,4	0,10	Window height
20260	5,6	0,114	X-coord of top left corner of window
20260	7,8	0,236	Y-coord of top left corner of window
20160	2	4	Other values that can be altered:
20160			Colour of 'CAPS:':
20130	6	7	set to same as window ink
20130			Colour of CAPS LOCK indicator.
20050	3,4	1,194	need not be same colour as window ink
20050			Initial start delay:
20050			length in QDOS cycles (initially 450)

```

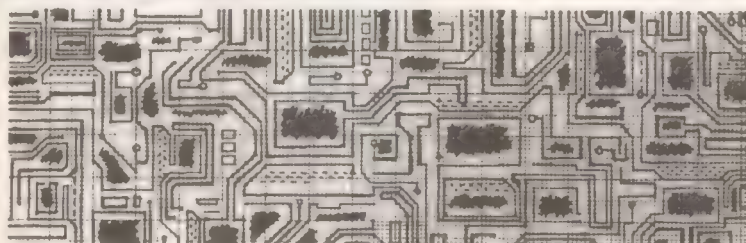
1 CLEAR
2 WINDOW 512,256,0,0:CSIZE 1,0:PAPER
2:CLS:GO SUB 10:CSIZE 2,1
8 EXEC mdv1_capslock:EXEC W mdv1_quill
9 OPEN #1,scr:OPEN #2,scr:STOP
10 WINDOW 180,160,156,50
11 PRINT DATE$:INPUT ('Reset clock?
[Y/N]')!a$
12 IF a$='N' OR a$='n':WINDOW 512,256,0,0:
CLS:RETURN
13 INPUT ('Year [eg. 1986]')!y:INPUT ('Month
[1-12]:')!m:INPUT ('Day [1-31]:')!d
14 INPUT ('Hour [1-23]:')!h:INPUT
('Minutes:')!n:INPUT ('Seconds:')!s
15 SDATE y,m,d,h,n,s:CLS:GO TO 11

```

For brevity's sake, this routine has not been error-trapped; if you input a string rather than a number into one of the date parameters, or even just <ENTER>, the program will crash. If you regularly boot from F2, change line 10 to:

```
10 WINDOW 360,160,66,50
```

## Spectrum



**T**his week, we continue our series of machine code utilities. Header is a routine that reads the header information for a recorded file and provides detail of that file.

As well as giving the name of the file and its type (eg. *Bytes*, *Program* etc), this routine gives its length and start. In the case of arrays, start is meaningless and may be ignored. For code, it indicates the address at which the code should be loaded, and for programs it gives the line number from which auto-running occurs.

If the program does not auto-run, then the message "No Line" is displayed. Length indicates the total length (in bytes) of the file. The routine is called by *Randomize Usr 64010*.

Type in the code with the Loader program we printed in Vol 5 No 14 - which, incidentally, will work a little better if you insert 50 For n= start to finish Step 5

Also, on the subject of errata, we also publish this week, the remainder of the Trace code, printed in the same issue.

Next week, an On Error command, plus a Block Delete facility.

Meanwhile, Paul Murray is still selling

the whole suite of programs, on tape, for the sum of £3. Write to him at 5 Hanham Mills, Hanham, Bristol B15 3NU.

## HEADER

by Paul Murray

```

64010 62 2 205 1 22
64015 221 35 488 249 175
64020 17 17 0 59 221
64025 209 205 86 5 221
64030 225 48 238 221 229
64035 221 124 0 17 192
64040 9 205 10 12 4
64045 10 33 249 249 124
64050 229 192 115 195 229
64055 35 14 247 42 13
64060 215 24 27 128 81
64065 84 63 62 84 13
64070 78 71 52 45 84
64075 184 76 49 78 71
64080 84 72 184 78 79
64085 32 74 73 78 192
64090 17 63 250 175 205
64095 10 12 221 225 221
64100 78 13 221 70 14
64105 221 229 221 124 0
64110 147 32 13 120 284
64115 128 32 10 62 3
64120 17 63 250 205 10
64125 12 34 8 205 43
64130 45 205 227 45 62
64135 15 215 17 63 250
64140 62 1 205 10 12
64145 221 228 221 10 11
64150 221 70 12 205 43
64155 45 205 227 45 62
64160 13 215 201 62 1

```

CHECKSUM=16826

```

47564 17 254 58 203 142
47569 241 33 15 244 229
47574 19 221 121 254
47579 40 80 254 250 194
47584 48 27 11 214
47589 193 80 27 6 203
47594 31 208 244 206 84
47599 31 86 2 217 254
47604 58 122 243 147 32
47609 13 62 107 219
47614 15 48 249 42 127
47619 219 254 15 54 249
47624 24 9 41 248 4
47629 257 16 254 241 32
47634 247 253 203 10 125
47639 32 76 42 84 92
47644 305 110 29 253 124
47649 10 40 18 21 124
47654 250 192 100 40 11
47659 27 228 193 43 89
47664 12 63 192 164 192
47669 179 284 1 248 9
47674 94 38 94 217 63
47679 49 92 88 94 38
47684 238 68 238 33 34
47689 80 92 238 54 63
47694 92 87 30 0 223
47699 94 10 225 21 253
47704 114 13 207 182 243
47709 205 199 25 40
47714 214 21 22 251 254
47719 12 40 194 254 98
47724 142 243 195 138
47729 193 239 2 58
47734 215 205 231 34 219
47739 140 244 195 182 243

```

CHECKSUM=42415



# DATA TRANSFER

by Ian Coe

Spectrum-Atari link should be as shown in the table.

Spectrum *Tasword* files are held on microdrive as code loaded to address 32000. The *Last Word* Data files can be transferred direct using the *Move* com-

Spectrum	TX 2 RX 3		2TX 3RX	Atari
9 way D	DTR 4	connected	20 DTR	25 way D
plug (male)	CTS 5	to	5 CTS plug (female)	
	ground 7		7 ground	

mand, or can be loaded into memory and then transferred. Fig. 2 lists a very simple Spectrum Basic program that loads the *Tasword* file, opens the channel and then prints the ASCII bytes out.

At the Atari end of things, use is made of the *inp(n)* command. This reads a byte from a selected input port, where the (n) suffix is used to specify the assignment. *inp(1)* reads a byte from the RS232 port,

the status being determined by a negative port value. Thus *inp(-1)* = *!* indicates no character is available. Fig. 3 gives an Atari Basic program that takes the bytes and reads them onto disc in a format that *1st Word* can use.

The computers are linked with the cable prior to switch-on and the programs loaded into the respective computers. The name of the file to be transferred is entered into the Spectrum together with its length.

The Atari Basic program is run, needing only a file-name to begin. A *DOC* extension is added automatically to allow the *1st Word* program to identify it properly. After a short period of time the Spectrum screen should flash periodically and the Atari disc drive growl as the data is transferred.

A fair bit of trial and error is needed, but using the ideas above it should be possible to make working copies of most *Tasword* files onto the Atari ST.

Many Atari ST users will have upgraded from other computers and, like me, may have quite a large collection of programs and document files and the daunting prospect of retyping them onto the new system prompted me to see if a way could be found to transfer the files using the RS232 interface on the Atari.

My old computer system was a 48K Spectrum. Interface 1 plus Microdrive and I had some 2Mb of *Tasword 2* and *The Last Word* files on microdrive cartridge. I have transferred almost all of them using the link and software described below with only a small amount of work necessary to convert them to *1st Word* files.

Although the RS232 configuration, lead connections and programs are for Spectrum-Atari transfer, ASCII files can be transferred from any computer with an RS232 port using this network. For example, there seems to be no reason why the RS423 port of the BBC microcomputer could not be used for this transfer process. A program would need to select the port using *\*FXS,2*, then *VDU* and *PRINT* commands to send the files. I have deliberately written the programs to be as portable and as simple as possible, without any complicating features — they only have to work once for each file transferred, not to look clever!

The RS232 configuration on the Atari ST is set from GEM desktop as shown. The baud rate may be set to lower than 9600 if necessary, but in my system this was perfectly satisfactory. Any change should be reflected in the *FORMAT* command given to the other computer.

I took a good deal of trial and error before the correct pin connections were found. A flat ribbon cable with a Male 9 way D connector was used on the Spectrum end and a Female 25 way D connector on the other. The pin connections for the

Fig. 2 Spectrum Program

```

10 FORMAT "A",9600,BDR          ( the default value )
20 OPEN="A"
30 INPUT "Name of File : " AS $
40 INPUT "Length of code : " L%
50 LOAD "A",L%:CODE=CODE
60 FOR A = 1 TO L%:DO ( ( where A is drive number )
70 REM PRINT CHR$(PEEK(A)); BDR : ( if you want to see it )
80 PRINT A;CHR$(PEEK(A));
90 NEXT A
100 CLOSE#A
110 REM
115 PRINT "Program transferred - press any"
120 PRINT "key to get back to Shell"
130 PRINT "Now (Ctrl)C or (Ctrl)S"
140 PRINT " (BREAK) , Enter Close "
150 PAUSE 6
160 REM
170 OPEN="A"
180 FOR A = 1 TO L%
190 PRINT A;
200 CLOSE#A
210 STOP

```

Fig. 3 RS232 settings on the Atari

A File Edit Block Style Help

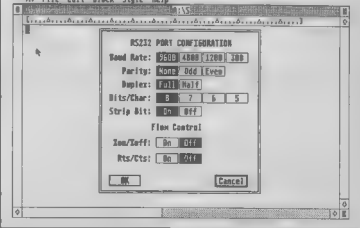


Fig. 3 Atari Program

```

2 on error goto 200
5 clear# 2:full# 2
10 input"filename: MAX 6
letters = .DOC will be
added";fs
let fs=fs+".DOC"
open"C:",#1,fs,1000
let la 64
for a=1 to (L-1)
60 let x=inp(1)
70 print chr$(x);
80 print#1,chr$(x);
90 next
95 let x=inp(1)
100 print chr$(x);
110 print#1,chr$(x);
120 goto 50
200 close 1
210 stop

```

## Border on Spectrum by Keith Ratcliffe

This is a short routine that creates a flashing border around part of the top of the screen. Alternate squares flash opposite to each other, so that a sense of movement is obtained - quite like a flashing neon sign.

It is called by a FN call and the three parameters are ink, paper and lines - the latter being the number of lines the 'box' extends down the screen.

The routine is protected from lines being greater than 20, and is located in the print buffer.

```
1 REM ** RUN program **
2 REM ** then GOTO 20 to repeat
5 GO SUB 9000
10 DEF FN u(i,p,l)=USR 23296
20 INPUT "ink";i
30 INPUT "paper";p
35 INPUT "lines";l
40 LET d=FN u(i,p,l)
50 STOP
9000 FOR i=23296 TO 23390: READ a: POKE
1,a: NEXT i
9010 DATA 221,42,11,92,221,94,4,221,70,1
2,62,0,128
9020 DATA 40,7,123,198,8,16,252,24,1,123
198,128,79,221,70,4,221,94,12,62,0,128,
40,7,123,198,8,16,252,24,1,123,198,128
9030 DATA 33,0,88,6,16,119,35,113,35,16,
250,245,221,70,20,62,20,184,48,2,6,20,24
1,203,36,30,31,22,0
9040 DATA 113,25,119,35,119,25,113,35,16
246,6,16,113,35,119,35,16,250,201,0,0
9050 RETURN
```

## Colour Control on BBC by N Whiteley

Mode 7 on the BBC micro is the ideal mode for adventure programs and other games/ applications which produce a lot of text since the characters are clear, well defined and you have over 20K in which to write your program.

But there is a problem in that if you are using colour, you start getting a mass of Chr's for every line of text that you display (for paper, ink, flashing and double height) which not only takes a lot of memory, but is very hard to understand. Not only that, if you clear the screen all the paper and ink colour gets lost and you have to do it all over again.

Colour control is a very useful utility which saves memory, makes displays extremely easy to produce more elegant and when you clear the screen, the paper and ink colour will still remain. Just type in the program and when you run it you will be given the command syntax, instructions and a demonstration.

```
10 REM *****
20 REM **
30 REM ** Colour Control for the **
40 REM ** BBC Micro mode 7 **
50 REM ** (C) N. Whiteley. **
60 REM **
70 REM *****
80
90 REM ** DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM **
100 REM ** INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE... **
110
120 MODE7
130 PROC COLOUR(1,2,3,1,0,1,8,0)
140 PRINT "Colour control (N & White)
150
160 PRINT "Colour control (N & White)
170
180 PROC COLOUR(1,2,3,1,0,1,8,0)
190 PRINT "SYNTAX"
200
210 PRINT "PARAMETERS"
220 PRINT "P = PAPER (0-7)"
230 PRINT "I = INK (0-7)"
240 PRINT "F = FLASH (0-OFF 1-ON)"
250 PRINT "H = HEIGHT (0-24) ROW"
260 PRINT "C = END (0-24) ROW"
270 PRINT "E = COLUMN (0-31) TAB"
280 PRINT "L = LINE (0-24) TAB"
290 PRINT
300 PRINT "AVAILABLE COLOURS"
310 PRINT "B = BLACK"
320 PRINT "I = RED"
330 PRINT "2 = GREEN"
340 PRINT "3 = YELLOW"
350 PRINT "4 = BLUE"
360 PRINT "5 = MAGENTA"
370 PRINT "6 = CYAN"
380 PRINT "7 = WHITE"
390 PROC COLOUR(1,2,3,1,0,1,8,0)
400
410
420
430 REM ** COLOUR CONTROL ROUTINE **
440
450 DEF PROC COLOUR(paper,ink,flash,h
460
470
480
490
500
510
520
530
540
550
560
570
580
590
600
610
620
630
640
650
660
670
680
690
700
710
720
730
740
750
760
770
780
790
800
810
820
830
840
850
860
870
880
890
900
910
920
930
940
950
960
970
980
990
```

## Rom Transfer on C64 by D Light

When run, this short machine code routine copies both character sets located in Rom at \$0000 (53248 decimal) into Ram starting at \$3000 (12288 decimal). The routine also turns off and then back on again keyboard and I/O interrupts.

If only one character set is required, proceed as follows: To locate a character set at 12288-14335 decimal, change the last data byte in line 20000 from 64 to 56.

To locate a character set at 14336-16383 change the 48 in line 20001 to 56. The 'OR' 12 in line 50 will also need to be changed to 'OR 14'.

When run, ignore the 'Error in Data' message and type - GOTO 40.

```
0 REM *****
1 REM ***** N/CODE ROM COPY *****
2 REM ***** BY - D.W.LIGHT *****
3 REM *****
4 REM *****
5 REM *****
6 A=52000
7
8 READ I:IF C=1 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=2 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=3 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=4 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=5 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=6 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=7 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=8 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=9 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=10 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=11 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=12 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=13 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=14 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=15 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=16 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=17 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=18 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=19 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=20 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=21 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=22 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=23 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=24 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=25 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=26 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=27 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=28 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=29 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=30 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=31 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=32 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=33 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=34 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=35 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=36 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=37 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=38 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=39 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=40 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=41 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=42 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=43 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=44 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=45 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=46 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=47 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=48 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=49 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=50 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=51 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=52 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=53 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=54 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=55 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=56 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=57 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=58 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=59 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=60 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=61 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=62 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=63 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=64 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=65 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=66 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=67 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=68 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=69 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=70 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=71 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=72 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=73 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=74 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=75 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=76 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=77 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=78 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=79 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=80 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=81 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=82 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=83 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=84 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=85 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=86 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=87 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=88 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=89 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=90 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=91 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=92 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=93 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=94 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=95 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=96 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=97 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=98 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=99 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=100 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=101 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=102 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=103 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=104 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=105 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=106 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=107 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=108 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=109 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=110 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=111 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=112 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=113 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=114 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=115 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=116 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=117 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=118 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=119 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=120 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=121 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=122 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=123 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=124 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=125 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=126 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=127 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=128 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=129 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=130 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=131 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=132 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=133 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=134 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=135 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=136 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=137 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=138 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=139 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=140 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=141 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=142 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=143 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=144 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=145 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=146 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=147 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=148 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=149 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=150 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=151 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=152 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=153 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=154 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=155 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=156 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=157 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=158 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=159 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=160 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=161 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=162 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=163 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=164 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=165 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=166 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=167 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=168 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=169 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=170 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=171 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=172 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=173 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=174 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=175 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=176 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=177 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=178 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=179 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=180 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=181 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=182 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=183 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=184 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=185 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=186 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=187 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=188 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=189 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=190 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=191 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=192 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=193 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=194 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=195 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=196 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=197 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=198 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=199 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=200 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=201 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=202 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=203 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=204 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=205 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=206 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=207 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=208 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=209 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=210 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=211 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=212 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=213 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=214 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=215 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=216 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=217 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=218 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=219 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=220 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=221 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=222 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=223 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=224 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=225 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=226 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=227 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=228 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=229 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=230 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=231 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=232 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=233 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=234 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=235 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=236 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=237 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=238 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=239 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=240 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=241 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=242 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=243 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=244 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=245 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=246 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=247 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=248 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=249 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=250 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=251 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=252 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=253 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=254 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=255 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=256 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=257 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=258 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=259 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=260 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=261 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=262 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=263 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=264 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=265 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=266 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=267 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=268 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=269 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=270 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=271 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=272 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=273 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=274 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=275 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=276 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=277 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=278 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=279 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=280 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=281 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=282 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=283 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=284 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=285 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=286 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=287 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=288 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=289 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=290 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=291 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=292 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=293 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=294 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=295 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=296 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=297 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=298 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=299 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=300 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=301 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=302 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=303 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=304 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=305 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=306 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=307 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=308 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=309 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=310 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=311 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=312 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=313 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=314 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=315 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=316 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=317 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=318 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=319 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=320 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=321 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=322 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=323 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=324 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=325 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=326 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=327 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=328 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=329 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=330 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=331 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=332 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=333 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=334 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=335 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=336 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=337 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=338 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=339 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=340 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=341 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=342 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=343 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=344 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=345 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=346 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=347 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=348 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=349 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=350 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=351 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=352 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=353 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=354 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=355 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=356 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=357 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=358 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=359 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=360 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=361 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=362 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=363 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=364 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=365 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=366 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=367 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=368 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=369 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=370 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=371 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=372 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=373 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=374 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=375 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=376 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=377 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=378 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=379 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=380 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=381 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=382 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=383 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=384 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=385 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=386 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=387 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=388 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=389 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=390 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=391 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=392 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=393 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=394 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=395 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=396 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=397 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=398 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=399 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=400 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=401 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=402 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=403 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=404 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=405 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=406 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=407 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=408 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=409 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=410 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=411 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=412 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=413 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=414 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=415 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=416 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=417 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=418 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=419 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=420 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=421 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=422 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=423 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=424 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=425 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=426 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=427 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=428 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=429 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=430 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=431 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=432 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=433 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=434 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=435 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=436 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=437 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=438 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=439 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=440 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=441 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=442 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=443 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=444 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=445 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=446 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=447 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=448 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=449 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=450 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=451 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=452 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=453 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=454 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=455 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=456 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=457 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=458 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=459 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=460 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=461 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=462 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=463 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=464 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=465 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=466 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=467 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=468 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=469 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=470 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=471 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=472 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=473 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=474 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=475 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=476 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=477 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=478 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=479 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=480 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=481 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=482 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=483 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=484 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=485 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=486 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=487 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=488 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=489 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=490 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=491 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=492 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=493 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=494 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=495 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=496 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=497 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=498 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=499 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=500 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=501 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=502 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=503 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=504 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=505 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=506 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=507 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=508 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=509 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=510 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=511 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=512 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=513 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=514 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=515 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=516 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=517 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=518 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=519 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=520 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=521 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=522 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=523 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=524 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=525 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=526 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=527 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=528 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=529 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=530 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=531 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=532 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=533 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=534 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=535 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=536 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=537 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=538 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=539 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=540 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=541 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=542 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=543 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=544 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=545 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=546 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=547 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=548 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=549 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=550 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=551 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=552 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=553 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=554 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=555 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=556 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=557 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=558 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=559 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=560 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=561 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=562 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=563 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=564 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=565 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=566 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=567 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=568 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=569 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=570 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=571 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=572 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=573 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=574 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=575 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=576 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=577 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=578 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=579 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=580 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=581 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=582 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=583 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=584 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=585 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=586 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=587 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=588 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=589 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=590 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=591 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=592 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=593 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=594 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=595 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=596 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=597 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=598 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=599 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=600 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=601 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=602 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=603 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=604 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=605 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=606 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=607 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=608 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=609 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=610 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=611 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=612 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=613 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=614 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=615 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=616 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=617 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=618 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=619 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=620 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=621 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=622 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=623 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=624 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=625 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=626 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=627 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=628 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=629 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=630 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=631 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=632 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=633 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=634 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=635 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=636 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=637 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=638 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=639 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=640 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=641 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=642 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=643 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=644 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=645 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=646 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=647 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=648 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=649 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=650 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=651 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=652 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=653 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=654 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=655 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=656 THEN POKE I,A:IF C=657 THEN 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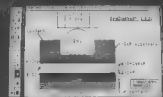
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Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population (N = 1000).

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POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY/25

24-30 APRIL 1997

POPULAR COMPUTING WEEKLY/25

## WORK OUT THE WORD PUZZLE

There is the penultimate part of the word grid where great rewards await you - specifically a Commodore 128D with colour monitor, two Atari 520 STMs with disc drives, and 25 Mirrorsoft games. Commodore 64, Spectrum and Amstrad owners will receive a copy of

L	M	O	D	N	A	R	F	W
T	M	E	D	I	T	O	R	D
U	U	C	T	F	E	F	X	O
P	S	N	F	R	P	T	N	I
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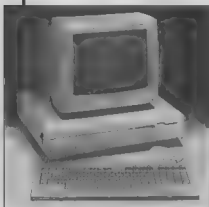
*Spitfire 40*, while BBC owners will get *Strike Force Harrier*.

### How to enter

This is the third part of the competition and, as usual, the grid contains six words (of at least four letters) related to microcomputing. The words may be written forwards or backwards, up or down (but not diagonally).

Once you've found the 18 words, you'll need to hold on to them for just one more

week. In the next issue, you'll find full details on how to enter, together with the official entry form. If you've stayed with it so far (and you all have, of course) it would be unspeakably foolish to miss out next week's issue. So why not have a word with your friendly, local newsagent?



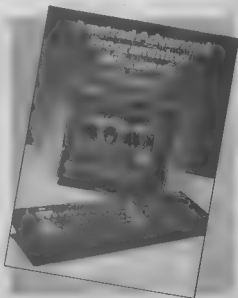
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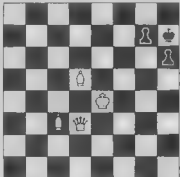
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# COLOSSUS CHESS 4 WINNERS!

**M**any thanks to everybody who entered our *Colossus Chess 4* competition (*Popular Computing Weekly*, March 6). We had a tremendous response, so it's taken a while to sort through them all; especially as the entries were of a very high standard.

The solution to the problem, shown below, started with the key move of White's queen to square KR3. Black has no



White must move and checkmate Black in two moves.

### Solution

1 Q-KR3 K-KN3  
2 Q-KR5 ♠ +

1	Q - KR3	K - KR1
2	Q x P ++	

1	Q - KR3	P - KR4
2	Q x P ++	

1 Q-KR3 P-KN3  
2 Q-Q7 + +

1 Q - KR3 P - KN4  
2 Q - KB5 + +

effective reply ■ this - whatever it does.  
White will checkmate next move.

The winners, who should have received their copies of *Colossus Chess 4* by now, were:

A Torrance, Salisbury, Wilts; ■ Mackintosh, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire; L W Vincenz, Stowmarket, Suffolk; John McDonnell, Pickering, N Yorks; A Testler, Luton, Beds; ■ Millar, Blackley, Manchester; John Gould, London N14; L A Woolton, London SE1; G L Moore, Maidenhead, Berks; M D Hurd, Bargoed, Mid-Glamorgan; E Elias, Bristol; Mark Haigh-Hutchinson,

Willington, Manchester; G A Salter, Oxford; S ■  
Bridges, Banbury, Oxon; A S Kerr, Newton A  
bott, Devon; D Clewley, Borehamwood, Herts; S  
P Bellis, Rhyl, Cwyd; Paul Fairclough, Mold,  
Cwyd; David S Gorge, Northolt, Middx; L  
Crossley, Halifax, W Yorks; R J Halsall,  
Wokingham, Berks; P C Robertson, Hollywood,  
Birmingham; Paul Davies, Solihull, West Mid-  
lands; Jonathan Davis, Harvington, Nr Eve-  
ham; Warren Reid, West Drayton, Middx.



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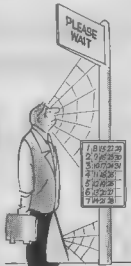
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# New Releases

**Graham Taylor looks through this week's new arrivals**

## Amstrad

**Program Redhawk Type Arcade Machine Amstrad Price £8.95 Supplier** Melbourne House, 60 High Street, Hampton Wick, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey KT1 4DB

**Program Rock 'n' Wrestle Type Arcade Machine Amstrad Price £8.95 Supplier** Melbourne House as above

## BBC

**Program A Vous la France Type Educational Machine BBC Price £8.95 Supplier** BBC Soft, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1A 4AA

**Program Deutsch Direkt Type Educational Machine BBC Price £22.95 Supplier** BBC Soft as above

## Commodore

**Program Hectic Type Arcade Machine Commodore 16 Price £1.99 Supplier** Mastertronic 6-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH

**Program Dr Who and the Mines of Terror Type Arcade Machine Commodore 64 Price £11.95 Supplier** Micro Power, Northwood House, Northwood House, North Street, Leeds LS7 2AA

**O**n the BBC this program was, I'll admit, a special in a market that didn't see much by way of mega, multi screen arcade adventures.

On the Commodore 64 it's another story. At £11.95, that puts *Dr Who* in the mega

league and it isn't that.

It isn't quite just a bog standard collect objects, use them, jump affair such as you might find on countless £1.99 Mastertronic games, but the additions don't, I feel, add up to all that much. The Doctor has to find and disable a nasty time device being built by the Master. He is aided not only by his wits, but also a cat called Splinx which you can control.

Solving the game is partly a matter of figuring out what to do with what object and partly a matter of the creative use of Splinx. A separate menu is used to issue instructions like, follow, go to a marker (which the Doctor can place in strategic locations) and pick up an object. Combinations of all three are required to deal with some problems.

Quite ingenious, reasonable to look at, moderately addictive, slightly original, too expensive.

**Program Kik Start Type Arcade Machine Commodore 16 Price £1.99 Supplier** Mastertronic as above

**Program Return of Rockman Type Arcade Machine Commodore 16 Price £1.99 Supplier** Mastertronic as above

**Program Pharaohs Tomb Type Arcade Machine Commodore 16 Price £4.95 Supplier** Magnificent 7, 21 Upfield, Horley, Surrey RH6 7JY

**Program Space Pilot Type Arcade Machine Commodore 16 Price £1.99 Supplier** Mastertronic as above

**Program Bump Set Spike Type Strategy Machine Commodore 64 Price £1.99 Supplier** Mastertronic as above

**Program Formula 1 Simulation Type Simulation Machine Commodore 64 Price £2.99 Supplier** Mastertronic as above

**Program Kaiser Type Strategy Machine Commodore 64 Price £7.95 Supplier** Ariolasoft as above

**Program Knights of the Desert Type Strategy Machine Commodore 64 Price £9.95 Supplier**

Pick of the week

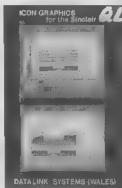
## CAD PAK

**Program Cad Pak Type Utility Machine QL Price £14.95 Supplier** Datalink Systems, Glangors, Ynyslas, Dyfed SY24 5JU

**D**on't be confused. Despite the title, *Cad Pak* is really another graphics package for the QL. The main difference between it and the Sinclair official package (as was), is that it has marginally fewer features, but is easier to use and half the price.

Graphics programs are one of the few areas where icons actually have some value, partly because of the obvious visual correlation of expressing a graphic idea via a graphic command. *Cad Pak* has just about everything you could need; instant circles, squares, multi-sided figures, cut and paste, text, spray paint, various kinds of shading and fill.

One nice touch is a little box on the bottom left of the screen which shows you



what you will get if you execute a particular command. So easy is the package to use that there is virtually no need for a manual - just as well really since there isn't one. (I could have done with a couple of pages worth, though.) An excellent low-priced alternative to the Sinclair pack.

US Gold, Unit 10, Parkway Industrial Estate, Heneage Street, Birmingham

**Program Golf Construction Set Type Strategy Machine Commodore 16 Price £12.95 Supplier** Ariolasoft, 68 Long Acre, Covent Garden, London WC2



**Program Redhawk Type Arcade Machine Commodore 16 Price £8.95 Supplier** Melbourne House as above

**Program Starbound Type Arcade Machine Commodore 16 Price £2.95 Supplier** CSD, Thomson House, 296 Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7NF

**Program War Play Type Strategy Machine Commodore 64 Price £7.95 Supplier** Anco 85 Tile Film Lane, Bexley, Kent

**Program Tournament Snooker Type Strategy Machine Commodore 64 Price £7.95 Supplier** Magnificent 7 as above



## Plus 4

**Program Indoor Soccer Type Strategy Machine Plus 4 Price £4.95 Supplier Magnificent 7 as above**

## QL

**Program Gobble Gobble Type Arcade Machine QL Price £9.95 Supplier Eiden, 45 Bancroft Road, Widnes, Cheshire WA8**

**Program Gwendoline Type Arcade Micro QL Price £14.95 Supplier Labochrome, Rue de Fragnee, 173 4000 Liege, Belgium**

**G**wendoline is a QL game from Belgium and in so far as it looks a bit like a slightly dated Spectrum title, it's pretty good by QL standards.

Absolutely standard collect and dodge - you are a rather helpless looking knight and



there is the inevitable princess to be rescued.

The screens consist of castle rooms, dungeons and towers, and the whole thing is littered with odd objects that do wacky things like make your knight run backwards, etc, etc.

Not actually a bad game, just a little tired looking. Gwendoline may be worth all the trouble of ordering from Belgium if you absolutely love Miner-style games.

QLR

## Spectrum

**Program Indoor Soccer Type Strategy Machine Spectrum Price £4.95 Supplier Magnificent 7 as above**

**Program Redhawk Type Arcade Machine Spectrum Price**

**£8.95 Supplier Melbourne House as above**

**Program Delta Wing Type Arcade Machine Spectrum Price £2.99 Supplier Mastertronic, 6-10 Paul Street, London EC2A 4JH**



**M**aybe we've just been saturated with flying simulation/dog fight games, but it's a little difficult to get very enthusiastic about Delta Wing. It's really just a basic, fly the plane, shoot up the bases and enemy fighters affair. Ground is a slab of green, sky a slab of blue. All other graphics aside from your cockpit (which is rather neat - hand moves on joystick, etc) are black line only affairs. OK, but no more.

Flying games all come somewhere on a scale of pure simulation (learning to fly the plane is all) to shoot-em-up (blasting the baddies is all). This is about 40% fly and 60% blast away.

I should say that Delta Wing is only £2.99 which makes it pretty cheap compared to the competition, but unless you don't yet have one of the countless other similar programs there is no great reason to buy this one.

There is one point of relevance to game players who have a) interface 1 and b) a friend with a Spectrum. On the other side of the tape is a multi-player version in which the game where you play against one another as though piloting two separate aircraft, ie, each player appears on the other's cockpit screen as the enemy.

That may prove to be a different game entirely and lots more fun. Under those circumstances I'd say buy, buy, buy.

**Program Bouncer Type Arcade Machine Spectrum Price £7.95 Supplier Gremlin Graphics, Alpha House, 10 Carver St, Sheffield S14 4FS**

**B**ouncer was originally released on the Commodore 64 where it achieved quasi cult status. Now the game has been converted to the Spectrum complete with full monochrome screen display.

The entire justification for the game's existence is its originality; it scores at least 90% in this crucial area where other programs barely notch up a single bonus point. The presentation is rather neat as well.

The game works like this. Imagine you are looking down on a ball hovering over a scrolling landscape, you see the ball as getting bigger when it bounces towards you and smaller when it hits the ground. Your task is to control the ball; bouncing it only on safe areas of ground, avoiding assorted nasty things and landing on various bonus squares that offer treats like extra lives.

The object of the game is simply to get your ball into the goal, but this requires not only very careful control of your bounce but also making a map - in some places there is only one route forward Bouncer looks nice and is very original; I found it frustrating rather than addictive, but the determined may well love it.

**Program Power Print II Type Utility Micro Spectrum Price £7.99 Supplier Buttercraft, 14 Western Avenue, Riddlesden, Keighley, Yorks.**

**P**ower Print II is an interesting utility from Buttercraft. It allows you



to design various sorts of banners and posters using text just about as large as you want. The greatest virtue of the system is its extreme ease of use.

Write your text, draw a window to represent the size you want the text to be, and then choose your text style - a mixture of any one of five fonts and 84 overlays (different kinds of fill basically) - then print it.

I have to say that I found a good many of the combinations, including many of those illustrated in the manual, rather ugly, but there is enough choice to find something you fancy.

As is, the program is designed to work with dodgy old ZX style printers, but there are some fairly comprehensive instructions on using the system with most of the common interfaces.

**Program Questprobe Type Adventure Micro Spectrum Price £9.95 Supplier All American Adventures, Unit 10, Parkway Industrial Estate, Herraage St, Birmingham B7 4LY**

**W**hen Adventure International first started to release adventures based on the Marvel Comic superheroes they received mixed reviews, for being graphically quite neat but lacking really inventive ideas in the design.

Now US Gold under the All American Adventures banner has taken on the marvel series. Next up is Questprobe, featuring the Human Torch and the Thing and there are reasons to be more optimistic about its long term addictiveness.

You play not one, but two superheroes, The Torch and the Thing, and can change which viewpoint you are playing from at any time. Your task is to rescue Alicia Masters from the grip of Dr Doom who is not a nice guy. Among other wacky people you might meet are the Circus of Death (a laugh a minute). All locations are illustrated with some pleasing, if not awe-inspiring, graphics.

Working with two characters certainly adds something to the game and I was reasonably inclined to keep playing even though it took me half an hour to figure out the first thing to

**Program Trio Type Arcade Machine Spectrum Price £2.95 Supplier CSD as above**

## Top Twenty

- |    |      |   |                |
|----|------|---|----------------|
| 1  | (4)  | V (Spectrum C64)                        | Ocean          |
| 2  | (5)  | Bomb Jack (Spectrum)                    | Elite          |
| 3  | (2)  | Green Beret (Spectrum)                  | Imagine        |
| 4  | (3)  | Way of the Tiger (Spectrum/Amstrad MSX) | Gramlin        |
| 5  | (8)  | Commando (Spectrum C64/BBC C16)         | Elite          |
| 6  | (6)  | Last V8 (C64/Amstrad Atari)             | Mastertronic   |
| 7  | (9)  | Formula One Simulator (Various)         | Mastertronic   |
| 8  | (14) | One Man And His Droid (Various)         | Mastertronic   |
| 9  | (16) | Finders Keepers (Various)               | Mastertronic   |
| 10 | (7)  | Computer Hits 10 (2) (Various)          | Beau Jolly     |
| 11 | (15) | Action Biker (Spectrum C64/C16/Atari)   | V - up to no 1 |
| 12 | (17) | BMX Racers (Spectrum C64/Amstrad C16)   | Mastertronic   |
| 13 | (13) | F A Cup Football (Spectrum C64/Amstrad) | Mastertronic   |
| 14 | (-)  | Sport Of Kings (Spectrum)               | Virgin         |
| 15 | (-)  | Rockman (Spectrum, C64, Vic, C16)       | Mastertronic   |
| 16 | (19) | Mr Puniverse (C16)                      | Mastertronic   |
| 17 | (3)  | Bomb Jack (Spectrum)                    | Elite          |
| 18 | (-)  | Starstrike 2 (Spectrum)                 | Realtime       |
| 19 | (-)  | Off The Hook (Spectrum, C64)            | Off The Hook   |
| 20 | (11) | Yie Ar Kung Fu (Various)                | Imagine        |



V - up to no 1



Off The Hook - new entry

## Top Tens

### Amstrad

- |    |     |                                    |
|----|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1  | (1) | Into Oblivion (Mastertronic)       |
| 2  | (-) | Caves Of Doom (Mastertronic)       |
| 3  | (-) | Last V8 (Mastertronic)             |
| 4  | (-) | One Man & his Droid (Mastertronic) |
| 5  | (6) | Finders Keepers (Mastertronic)     |
| 6  | (2) | Spindizzy (Electric Dreams)        |
| 7  | (1) | Way Of The Tiger (Gramlin)         |
| 8  | (-) | Get Dexter (PS)                    |
| 9  | (7) | Comp Hits 10 (2) (Beau Jolly)      |
| 10 | (6) | Formula 1 Sim (Mastertronic)       |

### Atari

- |    |     |                                     |
|----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | (1) | Last V8 (Mastertronic)              |
| 2  | (2) | Action Biker (Mastertronic)         |
| 3  | (3) | One Man & his Droid (Mastertronic)  |
| 4  | (4) | Chimera (Firebird)                  |
| 5  | (-) | Arctian Classics (Datacube)         |
| 6  | (5) | Fighter Pilot (Digital Integration) |
| 7  | (6) | Spy v Spy 2 (Datacube)              |
| 8  | (7) | Strip Poker (Artwork/US Gold)       |
| 9  | (-) | Asylum (US Gold)                    |
| 10 | (-) | Smash Hits 4 (English)              |



Superbest - going down

### BBC

- |    |     |                                  |
|----|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1  | (1) | Commando (Elite)                 |
| 2  | (3) | Winter Olympics (Tynecast)       |
| 3  | (2) | Karate Combat (Superior)         |
| 4  | (4) | Yie Ar Kung Fu (Imagine)         |
| 5  | (5) | Strike Force Harrier (Microcast) |
| 6  | (6) | Citadel (Superior)               |
| 7  | (-) | Speech (Superior)                |
| 8  | (8) | Tennis (Vag Byne)                |
| 9  | (-) | Hypersports (Imagine)            |
| 10 | (6) | Comp. Hits 10 Vol 2 (Beau Jolly) |

All figures compiled by Gallup/Microscope

### Commodore 64

- |    |     |                                  |
|----|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1  | (-) | Bomb Jack (Elite)                |
| 2  | (2) | V (Ocean)                        |
| 3  | (3) | Superbow (Ocean)                 |
| 4  | (1) | Urdukan (Hewes Consultants)      |
| 5  | (8) | Kare (Mastertronic)              |
| 6  | (-) | Off The Hook (Off The Hook)      |
| 7  | (-) | Phantom of the Asteroids (Mitre) |
| 8  | (-) | Wing Commander (Mastertronic)    |
| 9  | (-) | Last V8 (Mastertronic)           |
| 10 | (6) | Zapp Sizzlers (Gramlin)          |

### Spectrum

- |    |      |                                  |
|----|------|----------------------------------|
| 1  | (1)  | Green Beret (Imagine)            |
| 2  | (5)  | V (Ocean)                        |
| 3  | (2)  | Bomb Jack (Elite)                |
| 4  | (3)  | Way Of The Tiger (Gramlin)       |
| 5  | (-)  | Sport Of Kings (Mastertronic)    |
| 6  | (9)  | Starstrike 2 (Realtime)          |
| 7  | (7)  | F A Cup Football (Virgin)        |
| 8  | (6)  | Innocent Shrink Fireman (Master) |
| 9  | (-)  | Turbo Exprt (Dursell)            |
| 10 | (10) | Devils Crown (Mastertronic)      |

## NEXT WEEK

The next issue of *Popular Computing Weekly* is the start of something big. In addition to the usual features - hot news, exclusive reviews, programming tips - you'll find the first of a series of supplements.

Every second week we'll be looking at a different aspect of microcomputing - some supplements will examine particular machines, others will look at music, graphics and education.

The series starts with a bonus for Commodore owners and will include:

### Commodore word processing

New packages including *Paperclip* and *Cut 'n' Paste*.

### 80-column displays on the 128

How to get business-standard displays without investing in a £300 monitor.

### Alternate realities

A profile on US simulations specialist Microprose with a look at two of its new products, submarine action in *Silent Service* and aerial thrills from *Acrojet*.

### Plus

A look ahead to next month's Commodore Show. Order your copy now.

## The Hackers



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